

Hafa Adai!

Merry Christmas!

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# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

**Yutu recovery unaffected by federal govt shutdown. PAGE 2**

**Largest class yet graduate from NMI drug court. PAGE 3**

75¢

## Cockfighting ban now law

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER

President Donald J. Trump signed into law last Thursday a federal farm bill that contains a provision that now bans cockfighting in all U.S. jurisdictions, including in Guam and in the CNMI.

The \$67-billion farm bill is now Public Law 115-334, the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018.

Cockfighting is already banned in all 50 states but this new law extends the ban to all five territories—American Samoa, the CNMI, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The ban will become official in one year.

P.L. 115-334 overrides all local

**See BAN on Page 4**



Pacific Islands Club-Saipan staff welcome guests after the resort re-opened last Friday, nearly two months after closing down due to Super Typhoon Yutu devastation.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

**See more photos on Page 18**

### WITH \$5M-\$7M FOR REPAIRS, RENOVATIONS

### PIC re-opens after almost 2 months

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

After extensive repairs and renovation that cost between \$5 million and \$7 million, the Pacific Islands Club Saipan in San Antonio re-opened last Friday, nearly two months after the destruction of Super Typhoon Yutu.

That coincided with the re-opening Friday of the Regal Saipan

Megaplex in San Jose. Locally called Hollywood Theaters in San Jose, the only moviehouse in the CNMI suffered extensive damage from Yutu.

As the first group of Korean tourists got down from a van and walked inside the PIC's lobby Friday afternoon, PIC staff led by general manager Gloria Cavanagh greeted them with a boisterous

**See PIC on Page 4**

### SSHS threat blamed on 'hacked account'

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
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REPORTER

An email message that prompted a lockdown at Saipan Southern High School last Friday is now being

blamed on a "hacked account."

An email message sent to the Saipan Southern High School administration prompted the Public School System and local law enforcement to

**See SSHS on Page 4**

### Tsunami sweeps Indonesia; 168 dead

By ALI KOTARUMALOS and MARGIE MASON  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A tsunami that occurred after the erup-

tion of a volcano killed more than 160 people around Indonesia's Sunda Strait during a busy holiday weekend, sending water crashing ashore and sweeping away hotels, hundreds

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### NOTICE

There will be no issue of *Saipan Tribune* on Dec. 25/26, 2018 and Jan. 1/2, 2019.

*Happy Holidays!*



### INSIDE



#### LOCAL

Commonwealth Health Center unveiled last Thursday a new digital mammo-graph scanner.

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#### NATION

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis resigns, saying the next Pentagon chief faces hazards.

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#### LIFE & STYLE

Saoirse Ronan says she was "more than ready" for her new role as Mary Queen of Scots.

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# Local

## Yutu recovery unaffected by federal govt shutdown

Operations would continue for federal agencies involved in ongoing recovery efforts from Super Typhoon Yutu and Typhoon Mangkhut—even if the government in Washington, D.C. partially shuts down for the third time this year. The White House and Congress failed to reach last Friday an agreement for a spending bill

that would keep the government in full operation.

The Senate has adjourned through Christmas and the partial government shutdown is expected to continue until after Christmas. President Donald J. Trump has been pushing to include a \$5-billion funding for his border wall, one of his key campaign promises.

Press secretary Kevin Baustista released a Torres administration statement yesterday that assured that the government shutdown would have limited effect on the CNMI, even as Congress and the White House continue their negotiations on an appropriations bill.

“Roughly three-quarters of the government has already

been funded by existing funding measures. ...[The] effects of an extended federal government shutdown will grow over time, but [Gov. Ralph DLG Torres] and the administration will continue to monitor the situation closely and work with our federal partners on managing essential federal services,” the Torres

statement said.

The statement pointed out that FEMA personnel and its disaster assistance program in the CNMI have already been funded through the Disaster Relief Fund—money that is allotted to finance aid and relief for major disasters and emergencies.

“Accordingly, critical federal services will remain intact, including other programs classified as essential. Commonwealth services remain

largely undisturbed. FEMA personnel deployed and assigned to the CNMI for recovery efforts pertaining to Super Typhoon Yutu and Typhoon Mangkhut, as well as disaster assistance, are not affected,” the statement added.

FEMA’s Disaster Recovery Center at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center will be open from 9am to 12pm today and will be closed tomorrow, Christmas Day. Regular operations would resume the following Day, Dec. 26.

Programs like Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid will also not be affected and would continue with their operations. The United States Postal Service will remain open. Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid programs fall under mandatory spending and are not affected by any annual appropriations process. USPS is funded by independent sources, the administration said.

The American Memorial Park in Garapan, according to the National Park Service, would remain accessible to the public even during the shutdown. The AMP Visitor Center and bookstore will be open from 9am to 4pm, except Christmas Day. Restrooms, trash collection, and other daily maintenance will be limited. *(Jon Perez)*

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# Largest class yet graduate from NMI Drug Court



Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio, left, and assistant attorney general Chester Hinds pose for a photo following the Drug Court graduation last Friday. **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**

The CNMI Drug Court saw its largest batch of graduates last Friday, with 13 individuals successfully leaving the program.

According to Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio, Friday's batch was the fourth since the Drug Court program started and was the largest batch by far.

"A lot of these participants that graduated here today are part of the original group, so they fulfilled the whole 24 months. ...It's a balance between those who have been in the program for years and for those graduating early," she said.

The program has had 22 graduates to date and about 30 are still with the program.

Drug court graduate Christopher John Eger, who has been in the program for two years, spoke for the graduating class.

He said the program was intense and completing it is a huge accomplishment for him and his wife.

"It was very hard, it was very intense but, as you go along, you start to get this sense of what you used to be without the use of drugs," he said.

Eger's wife, Chrysanta Noche Eger, shared that since entering the program, she has been attending classes at the Northern Marianas Trades Institute and is working on becoming a chef.

Eger is currently working

*See LARGEST on Next Page*



Artwork by Irish Christine Viray, Pacifica Art Contest 2018 Category Two Winner

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## TSUNAMI

From Page 1

of houses and people attending a beach concert.

More than 700 people were reported injured after the tsunami hit at 9:27 p.m. Saturday, the Disaster Management Agency said. At least 30 others were missing, but the toll could continue to rise because some areas had not yet been reached.

Scientists, including those from Indonesia's Meteorology and Geophysics agency, said the tsunami could have been caused by undersea landslides or those occur-



ring above sea level on the volcano's steep outside slope following the eruption of Anak Krakatau. It translates to "Child of Krakatoa," a volcanic island formed over

years after one of the largest eruptions in recorded history occurred at the Krakatoa volcano more than a century ago. The scientists also cited tidal waves caused by

Residents inspect a house damaged by a tsunami, in Carita, Indonesia, Sunday, Dec. 23, 2018. AP

the full moon.

Dramatic footage posted on social media showed an Indonesian pop band named "Seventeen" performing under a tent on a popular beach at a concert for employees of the state-owned electricity company. Dozens of people sat listening at tables covered in white cloths while others bobbed to the music near the stage as bright strobe lights flashed.

A child could also be seen wandering through the crowd.

Seconds later, with the drummer pounding just as the next song was about to begin, the stage suddenly heaved forward and buckled from the force of the water, throwing the band and all their equipment into the audience.

The group released a statement saying their bass player and road manager were found dead, while three other members and the wife of one of the performers remained missing.

"The tide rose to the surface and dragged all the people on site," the statement said. "Unfortunately, when the current receded our members are unable to save themselves while some did not find a place to hold on."

Tourists were also affected during the long holiday weekend ahead of Christmas.

"I had to run, as the wave

passed the beach and landed 15-20m (meters, or 50-65 feet) inland," Norwegian Oystein Lund Andersen wrote on Facebook. The self-described photographer and volcano enthusiast said he was taking pictures of the volcano when he suddenly saw a big wave come toward him.

"Next wave entered the hotel area where I was staying and downed cars on the road behind it," he wrote. "Managed to evacuate with my family to higher ground (through) forest paths and villages, where we are taken care of (by) the locals. Were unharmed, thankfully."

The worst-affected area was the Pandeglang region of Java island's Banten province, which encompasses Ujung Kulon National Park and popular beaches, the disaster agency said.

## PIC

From Page 1

"Hafa adai" (the island term for "welcome").

E-Land Group Saipan president Matthew Park and other E-Land managers joined the greeting party.

PIC staff formed two long lines on the side of the lobby, providing a center lane for the incoming first batch of customers.

The tourists were visibly amused as they walked in the center lane and responded with smiles to the applause and cheers that were accompanied by a drum.

Dancers, wearing traditional attire, presented the smiling visitors with leis.

In a later interview, E-Land Group Saipan president Matthew Park said the opening wasn't only an important sign for PIC, but a symbol of the tourism industry's revival after Yutu's massive destruction.

E-Land Group is the parent company of PIC Saipan, Kensington Hotel Saipan, and Coral Ocean Golf Resort.

Park said it took them almost two months to re-open PIC because they had to renovate the lobby, restaurants, some rooms, swimming pools, and other facilities.

Park said the E-Land Group's construction companies also supported other local companies in the repairs and renovations.

"It's a start of new promotion, not only to the Korean market, but also to the Japanese," he said.

The first group of tourists to arrive was aboard Jeju Airlines. The second batch of visitors came that night, Friday, aboard Asiana Airlines.

PIC general manager Cavanagh said they organized the welcome reception because "we wanted them to feel very special because they are very special to us."

After Yutu struck Saipan and Tinian last Oct. 24 and 25, PIC closed down when their last customer left last Oct. 31. PIC then started renovations a couple of weeks later.

Cavanagh said the re-opening is a product of six weeks of hard work and very good planning to get everything done.

"We wanted them to feel special. We wanted to welcome them into a new PIC, a better PIC, and into a better service," Cavanagh said.

On the staff side, Cavanagh said it's been a long turmoil for them and most are still on 30 hours a week.

"They were helping with debris cleanup. They were helping with just everything around the property, but to actually see the guests and wanting to serve the guests, it made them feel really good to actually do this," she said.

Cavanagh said the cleanup is actually still going on as there are still some debris.

"After the storm, we called

in many construction companies; we grabbed them right away," she said.

At one time, Cavanagh recalled, there were five different construction companies working all at the same time.

The iconic The Magellan restaurant re-opened to in-house guests yesterday.

Cavanagh said at one time, there were 40 people working on The Magellan alone.

"I think everyone has a cold or something from all the dusts and everything. They worked night and day. I think they finished the overlay at the Lazy River like 1:30am in the morning [Thursday]," she said.

She said Thursday night was a big push to get everything done for the re-opening.

"Believe it or not, as of 5 o'clock yesterday, they were still putting in tiles on this floor [lobby]. It was absolutely amazing. It was coordination and planning by everyone, by the whole team," Cavanagh said.

Right now, PIC's 230 rooms are open, but 77 are still down while the hotel is waiting for supplies to come in.

Cavanagh said their first guests—12 families—arrived Friday afternoon, while the second group of about 20 families came Friday night or early Saturday morning.

Cavanagh said their staff's hours are still cut. "But through this all whole ordeal, since closing...we never cut their benefits."

ed that any ban on cockfighting should originate in the territories as local law. They defended the practice as part of local cultures.

This was reiterated by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who said in a statement that cockfighting has been part of the CNMI for decades. "Cockfighting has historical and cultural significance in the CNMI and is a recreational activity enjoyed by many of our residents."

"We joined in our community's collective frustration with [the U.S.] Congress to oppose the ban, but

our voices weren't heard in Washington. We will monitor the effects of this legislation accordingly, but purely from the local standpoint, we will maintain what is historically and culturally held by our people."

Sablan, in an earlier statement, also expressed frustration over the measure. "The [non-voting] representatives from Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and I opposed the provision banning animal fighting in the territories. But there was just too much bipartisan support for us to

Many of the major renovation were at the lobby, The Magellan, the pool bar, pavilion, Seaside Grill, and Happy Hour tent. Cavanagh said that Point Break is not open yet as they need to wait for materials.

As to the observation deck at Point Break, she said it's going through a permitting process because it will be a new structure.

Cavanagh said when everything is completed, the total cost is going to be somewhere between \$5 million and \$7 million.

Cavanagh said that many of the resort's employees are "always converging in the locker room downstairs and...they've been working diligently, very hard to get this place open."

A group of four Korean families said they did not expect the warm welcome and that they really appreciate it.

It was the family's first trip to Saipan, which they learned about when they visited PIC Guam last year.

Through a PIC staff who served as an interpreter, the family said they're aware of Yutu's devastation and that they learned of the hotel's re-opening through its website.

They said they enjoyed their stay at PIC Guam, particularly the program for children, so they planned this trip to Saipan months ago. The family will stay two nights and three days.

defeat it."

"If [CNMI] officials decide to ban cockfighting in the Marianas, I would have no problem with that. But I have an issue with the [U.S.] Congress enacting legislation overriding a Commonwealth law without input from [CNMI] citizens and officials."

People who sponsor cockfighting events face a fine and a maximum prison term of five years, while those who would attend can be punished with a fine and a one-year prison term, as stated in the provision on P.L. 115-334.

## SSHS

From Page 1

believe that the school would face an active shooter attack, prompting the nearly two-hour lockdown and police searching the school.

The threatening email message allegedly came from the account of a 16-year-old SSHS student, who later denied sending the threatening email. Police identified the student but *Saipan Tribune* is opting not to identify him at the moment.

Police learned that the email was sent through a school computer and it is still unknown who was responsible for the email.

In an interview with the student with the hacked email account, he said that he had no clue what was going until he was pulled out of class to be questioned by SSHS faculty and police officers.

"During my first period, my teacher...called me up to her desk and she showed me the email on her phone and she was asking me if I sent it and I told her no. I was never on any computer when the email was sent...I have no idea [who sent it]" he said.

His older sister also talked to the police and SSHS administration about the email.

"We have to find out now who hacked his email. This

is not fair because it's ruining his reputation and this is not a joke. We're going to find out...there is also a picture going around of my brother's school ID and we need to find out who is sending that. This is not fair; he is only in high school and this is going to ruin a lot of things for him," she said.

When asked whether he would know of anyone who wanted to get back at him, he said he has no idea.

"I'm usually good with everyone...everyone knows me, everyone knows I wouldn't do this and they know I'm better than that...I'm so sorry if this ruined everyone's Christmas party," he said.

According to Saipan Southern High School principal Vincent Delacruz, when threats like shooting and bombing are made, it is never taken lightly.

"Whenever we receive a threat, we follow a protocol and that protocol is, we call 911 first, then we inform the [PSS] commissioner, and then DPS [Department of Public Safety] takes over...Even if it is a prank, you can see how many officers came out here...it's part of their job, yes, but if this prank hadn't happened, these officers could be out there serving and protecting the community," he said.

Delacruz added that DPS would continue to investigate the matter.

## LARGEST

From Page 3

for G4S, a security company.

Kim-Tenorio hopes the program graduates will serve as counselors or peer support for those still in the program or those who will be entering the program.

"Years from now, I hope we have more licensed counselors...more psychiatrists,

and that I would also see that some of our graduates from the drug court will be those people. The social workers, the counselors, the peer leaders, the peer support and that's good because they have a unique view that I don't have because they are in recovery. They can relate with the participants...so...it'll be more dynamic and much more improved," she said. **(Kimberly A. Bautista)**

## BAN

From Page 1

laws that legalizes and regulates cockfighting in the territories, where cockfighting is a popular pastime.

CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) and Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU), together with other territorial delegates and some U.S. House members, killed an earlier version of the bill but it passed in June and then went all the way to Trump.

The delegates earlier insist-



## CHC gets mammogram scanner

The Commonwealth Health Center unveiled last Thursday a new digital mammogram scanner that converts traditional x-ray film into digital format.

The Commonwealth Cancer Association and CHC officials unveiled the new film-to-digital scanner, which is projected to make diagnosis faster.

The new machine costs about \$7,794, according to the CCA, which financed the purchase.

CHC Department of Radiology manager Dan Harding noted that the equipment

upgrade allows patients who have had traditional x-rays the benefit of having a quicker and more accessible copy of their mammogram history.

"The advantages of digital mammography are the fact that we can do an exam one day, send it [to specialists] the same day... [and manipulate and interpret] those exams and get a quicker diagnosis and better diagnosis because of the digital nature of it," he said.

According to Harding, what was previously a waiting pe-

riod of about three to four weeks using the traditional mammogram film would take about three to four days only.

CCA executive director Juan L. Babauta clarified that their organization handled the financing of the procurement.

That means CHC's radiology department is now fully digital.

"It's made our department much more efficient and much more responsive," Harding said.

He noted that about 60 to 70 women undergo a mammography with CHC monthly. *(Erwin Encinares)*



Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña poses with Commonwealth Cancer Association executive director Juan L. Babauta and Commonwealth Health Center radiology manager Dan Harding after unveiling the new mammogram film to digital scanner last Thursday. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Public warned of stinging jellyfish

The CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point is warning the public that large numbers of Portuguese man-of-war jellyfish have been sighted along eastern and northern shores of the Marianas. The public is being warned to avoid the.

Also, a trade-wind swell will continue to produce a high risk of rip currents along east facing reefs through at least Wednesday night, based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam.

A beach hazards statement is now in effect through Tuesday and there is a high risk of rip currents through Wednesday night.

The persistent trade-wind swell has pushed large num-

bers of Portuguese man-of-war jellyfish toward the eastern and northern shores of the Marianas. These jellyfish are seen both on the beaches and in the water.

The trade-wind swell will also produce a high risk of rip currents along east facing reefs through at least Wednesday night.

The public is advised to stay away from the waters and avoid touching jellyfish washed up on the beaches as this can cause extreme pain. If you are caught in a rip current, swim parallel to shore and back toward the beach when possible. Do not attempt to swim directly against a rip current. The safest course of action is to stay in shallow water near the beach. *(PR)*

## NMC unaffected by shooter threat

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**  
erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Northern Mariana College, who currently shares class space with the Saipan Southern High School, remains unaffected by an alleged security threat that placed the high school on lockdown Friday morning.

While SSHS classes were put on hold and the campus was on lockdown, NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico told *Saipan Tribune* that college classes remained unaffected.

He noted that NMC had already been on holiday leave for over a week when the alleged active shooter situation was reported to authorities last Friday.

He noted that NMC classes would resume on Jan. 7, 2019.

Separately, the Public School System assured that it takes any security threat seriously "...most especially if the threat is made toward our school community." PSS stated.

The lockdown at SSHS was lifted 1pm Friday.

According to the statement,

when the threat was received, SSHS school officials immediately notified local authorities and the nearby Koblerville Elementary School. Both schools went on lockdown Friday morning.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that the threat was made by an SSHS student after he allegedly emailed SSHS teacher Dora Miura and principal Vincent Dela Cruz of a possible active shooting event through his personal email.

"With the support of our local authorities and the PSS Crisis Management Team, person-

nel interviewed and searched classrooms and the school perimeter to ensure that there were no weapons or unauthorized individuals on campus," a PSS statement noted.

"We want to thank our local authorities for their immediate response and diligent work. Their quick action allowed us to capably and efficiently handle the incident. We want to assure our parents and the community that the CNMI PSS take all threats seriously and the safety of our students and staff are of the highest priority," the statement added.





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## NMC eyes return to As Terlaje campus in early 2019

The Northern Marianas College is looking at going back to holding classes at its As Terlaje campus in early 2019 once temporary structures are erected in the campus.

NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico told *Saipan Tribune* that the college aims to move back to the As Terlaje campus on Saipan on Feb. 11, 2019. That would also mark the continuation of NMC's morning classes.

Right now, NMC is temporarily holding classes at the Saipan Southern High School campus.

Eliptico noted that, once classes resume at the new temporary structures in the As Terlaje campus, NMC would be in full operation onwards.

Right now, NMC classes are on holiday break. NMC would

resume classes at the SSHS campus every weekday afternoon on Jan. 7, 2019. Right now, only afternoon, evening, and Saturday classes are being held at SSHS.

Twenty-four temporary classrooms are expected to be set up at the As Terlaje campus by late January 2019. Each structure can reportedly accommodate 30 students, complete with air conditioning and insulation.

"We are also repairing some existing classrooms on campus so that we can have all of our classrooms here at NMC," Eliptico told *Saipan Tribune* over the weekend.

The tents will be from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are also on-site, installing walkways, fencing, and lights, among others.

"It's not just the temporary

classroom structures they are putting up. They are putting in almost a whole infrastructure to make sure that the classrooms are safe and to make sure...the temporary structures work," he said.

In the meantime, Eliptico said the college is looking at where to get funding in order to build new structures and minimize the use of temporary structures.

"We want to make sure our permanent structures are also moving full speed in terms of architectural plans as well as pursuing funding opportunities," he said, adding that he has already pitched this idea to the incoming 21st Legislature. They reportedly gave him their verbal approval. He said a formal proposal would be ready "in the next few weeks." (*Erwin Encinares*)

## Red Cross responds to home fire

American Red Cross-NMI Chapter volunteers responded to a home fire on Pupulu Drive in Garapan Thursday just before noon.

The homeowners had recently installed new smoke alarms and were able to get out of the house in time.

A family of five individuals lost all their belongings because of the fire. The Red Cross gave them emergency assistance for food, clothing,

and shelter.

"We're deeply saddened for the family impacted by the fire, particularly as it happened just weeks after Super Typhoon Yutu devastated our islands, and most especially with the holidays just around the corner," said J.D. Tenorio, the Disaster Program manager for the NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross.

For more information on how to avail of free smoke

alarm installations in your home, contact the NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross at 234-3459.

People can visit [redcross.org/homefires](http://redcross.org/homefires) to find out more about how to protect themselves and their loved homes from fire. They can become a Red Cross volunteer by contacting the local chapter office at 234-3459 or by visiting our website at [www.redcross.org/nmi](http://www.redcross.org/nmi). They can also help by donating to Red Cross Disaster Relief by visiting [redcross.org](http://redcross.org). (*PR*)

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# Kilili: House-approved disaster bill a very good start

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. House of Representatives has approved disaster assistance for the Marianas and other areas of the United States struck by hurricanes, typhoons, wildfires, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions in 2018.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) began working to include the Marianas in the disaster supplemental bill immediately after Super Typhoon Yutu devastated Tinian and Saipan.

Incoming House speaker Nancy Pelosi assured him of her support days after Yutu and the incoming chairman of the House Appropriations Committee did the same in a call on Nov. 10. Since then Sablan has worked both sides of the aisle and both sides of Capitol Hill to secure recovery money.

The Marianas would get well over \$100 million if the House-passed bill, H.R. 695, becomes law. But what happens next is uncertain. The bill contains a controversial \$5 billion to fund portions of a border wall between Mexico

and the U.S. at the request of President Trump. It passed the House 217 to 185, but needs 60 votes to clear the Senate.

“Whether the bill is enacted now or whether this bill is the basis for action when Democrats are in the majority next month, we have made a very good start,” Sablan said. “It does not have everything I want, but we can build on this bill. I want to thank especially Appropriations chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen and ranking member Nita Lowey for their help.”

This is the first time the Marianas has ever been included in a disaster appropriation that provides money above and beyond what the Federal Emergency Management Agency brings to a recovery effort.

There is over \$1.1 billion for the community development fund of the Department of Housing and Urban Development that the Marianas will qualify for, as one of the areas most impacted by a disaster in 2018. Another \$300 million is available for grants from the Department of Commerce. The

money can be used for long-term recovery efforts, restoration of infrastructure and housing, and economic revitalization. And there is \$20 million set aside for highway repairs in any of the four smaller territories—American Samoa, Guam, the Marianas, or the Virgin Islands—hit by a storm this year.

## \$56M for Rota, Tinian, Saipan landfills

Sablan also lobbied hard for money to deal with all the debris created by typhoons Mangkhut and Yutu. He got \$56 million for the Marianas, enough for new sanitary landfills on Rota and Tinian and to open a new cell at the existing Marpi landfill on Saipan.

The supplemental appropriation also provides \$50 million to help restart schools and institutions of higher learning, like Northern Marianas College. “That is not nearly enough,” said Sablan. “Last year’s disaster bill for areas hit by hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, and by wildfires had \$2.7 billion. We need to add more to this year’s bill for our schools.”

Sablan said there was also more work to do on restoring funds for the Marianas Nutritional Assistance Program. “According to the Department of Agriculture, NAP has already spent over \$10.2 million helping Marianas families in need of food. But the disaster bill only has \$8.5 million for NAP. Plus, we must think about the costs in the months ahead. There will be many new families eligible for assistance because they have lost income after the typhoons.”

Other relief funding the Marianas would be eligible

for includes money for the airport, public transportation, Head Start, community health centers, National Parks, and crop losses. The Legal Service Corporation also gets \$5 million for its local branches, like Micronesian Legal Services, that aided typhoon survivors.

“Understand that this disaster money is part of a larger—and very contentious—effort to fund the federal government for the rest of fiscal year 2019. It is by no means a done deal,” Sablan cautioned.

“But we have been able for the first time to get the Mari-

anas into a disaster supplemental—right alongside Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas, California—all the states that suffered this year. That makes me very hopeful we will be able to get substantial additional federal help for our islands to recover from Mangkhut and Yutu.” (PR)

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## Chamber, CDA, OPD talks focus on recovery

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce separately met with the Commonwealth Development Authority and the Office of Planning and Development recently to provide input on how both agencies could help the local private sector, especially in the wake of the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu and how businesses can recover.

Chamber executive director Maxine Laszlo said the Chamber has been working with CDA on a possible loan program that could assist non-U.S. citizen-owned businesses.

“We’ve met with CDA where we talked about what are the challenges the business sector is facing right now,” she said. “One is being able to access loans for non-U.S. owned businesses. We’re working alongside with CDA to work on the program that people could avail of. It is slightly different from other programs...but it is specific with disaster recovery.”

The components of the potential program could benefit those non-U.S.-citizen-owned businesses affected by Yutu.

“The [Chamber] appreciates the partnership we have with CDA, in asking for the private sector’s input. The CDA, they are working hard to solve the problem with potentially creating a program that would be made available to everybody,” said Laszlo.

She said that OPD, on the other hand, wants to make sure the perspective of the lo-

cal private sector is taken into consideration when discussing the Commonwealth’s future.

The Chamber has also initiated a Business Recovery Coalition. “We talked about how it is really important that the business community recovers, to help us move forward, so as a community we try to apply for different grant funding...so we have data to back that up.”

Laszlo added that the local Commerce and Finance

departments had helped them with data gathering. “And we would move forward to have more meetings to see what more steps were taken by our partners.”

The Chamber has also had an ongoing survey on the recovery status of their member businesses. “So...we’re able to advocate on your behalf on what your actual needs are. That’s why this survey is important,” said Laszlo.

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## Hyatt employees donate toys



The employees of the Hyatt Regency Saipan pose for a photo with Guma Esperanza staff yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Employees of Hyatt Regency Saipan chipped in to buy toys that they later donated to the Guma Esperanza for distribution to children under its care.

Last Thursday, Hyatt employees loaded a van full of toys that would go to the children of women who live or have recently left the Guma Esperanza shelter.

The Guma Esperanza is a temporary shelter for domestic violence victims. The shelter is a branch of Karidat Social Services.

According to Hyatt Regen-

cy Human Resources director Josephine Mesta, over 100 toys were donated Thursday. "These are all provided by [Hyatt] employees out of their own pocket," she said.

Mesta said that Hyatt's staff has been donating toys to the shelter for over six year now.

"Despite the recent typhoon, the staff were still very anxious and enthusiastic about bringing in the gifts for the kids...the staff is very generous. They actually get excited every year. They come first to HR to find

out when we're going to do it," she said.

Guma Esperanza supervisor Lisa Ada said: "...We always look forward to...deliver[ing] the gifts to the kids because we don't tell them they have gifts...The kids are usually very happy. Sometimes they even cry," she said.

Ada said that all the children of women currently or were previously in the Guma Esperanza will receive gifts. Guma Esperanza staff will personally deliver them. **(Kimberly A. Bautista)**

Wishing you an abundantly blessed holiday season.

# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

From the management and staff



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# Go big with the 2019 RAV4

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**A** cool yearend gift to yourself or your family would be a car. So why not go big and get yourself the redesigned 2019 RAV4—the fifth iteration of the Japanese car maker's most popular vehicle under the Toyota brand?

The new Toyota RAV4 is now in glorious display at the Atkins Kroll Saipan's showroom in Oleai.

And do you know that RAV4 actually stands for Robust Accurate Vehicle? I learned that, too, when I got behind the wheel of this car last Friday, when Toyota gave Saipan Tribune the chance to test drive one, fresh off the boat. A lot has changed in the RAV4's body design since it was first introduced to the market in 1994 in Japan and Europe and the following year in America. The latest edition of the RAV4 is a



totally different design compared to its closest predecessor, the 2018 model. The sleeker and chiseled chassis appearance is under the Toyota New Global Architecture platform that it shares with the C-HR, Prius, Corolla, Camry, and the Avalon.

Chief engineer Yoshiakazu Saeki and his team of engineers and designers said that, when they thought of the RAV4's new design, they kept

in mind customers who want to spend more time driving anywhere and without limits, meticulously ensuring that all stress is removed from the driver in any situation.

Getting around Saipan in the new RAV4 was a pleasure to the ears, its aerodynamic design under the TNGA platform ensuring that there is lesser wind noise. The 2.5-liter, four-cylinder engine makes for smooth driving; the drive was so quiet that I failed to notice that I was already hitting 80mph. Good thing

there were no cops when I was zipping along Middle Road. Sorry officers, I still know that speeding is a violation and I've always been careful while driving.

The legroom for passenger—180.9 inches in length and 73.4-inch wide—gives an extra 4-inch legroom compared to the 2018 model. It also has an estimated 70-cubic feet storage space behind the rear seats. It comes with the basic 17-inch wheels for the standard LE models while 19-inch for the Adventure

*Continued on Next Page*



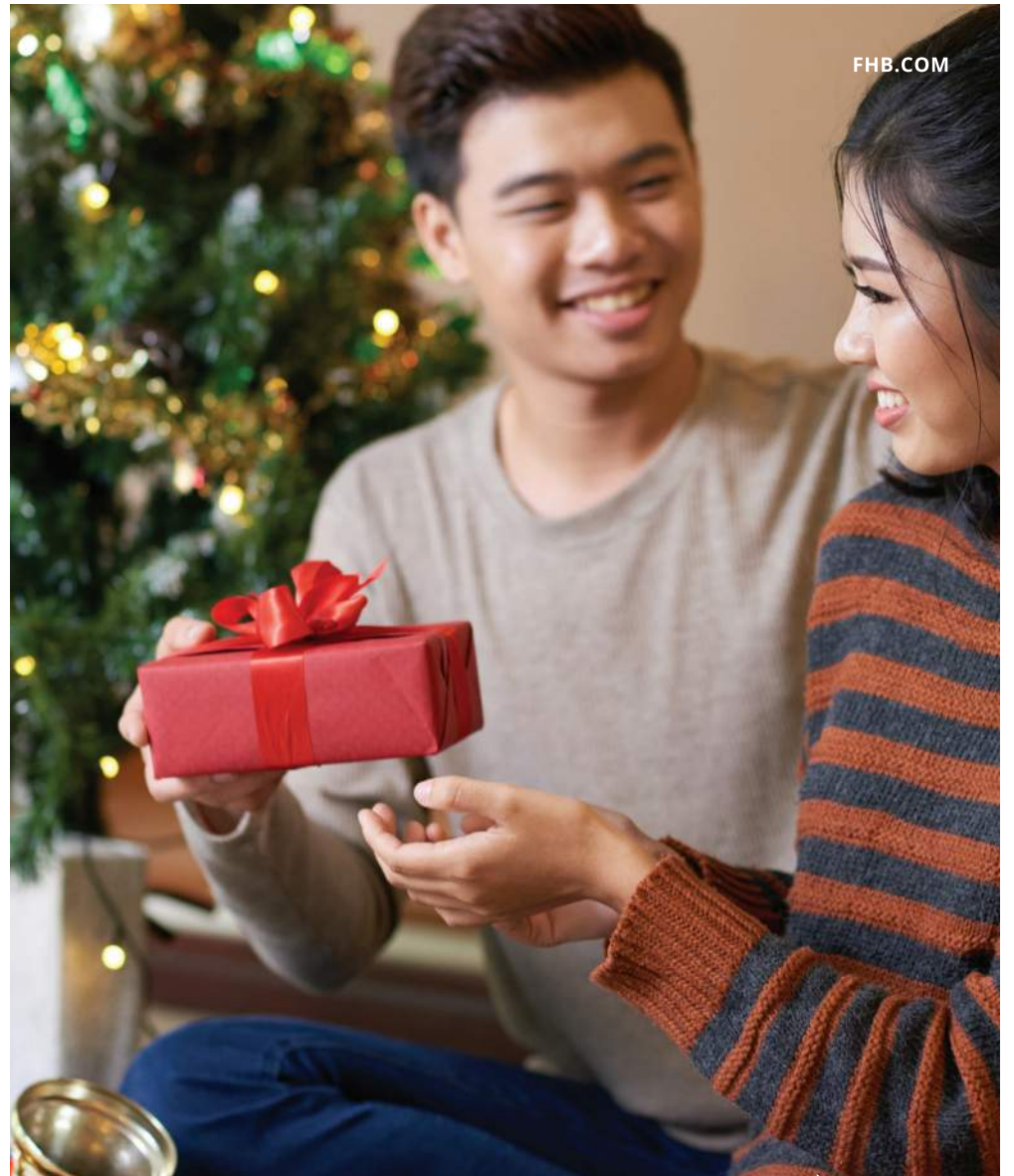
The new Toyota RAV4 is now in full glorious display at the Atkins Kroll Saipan's showroom in Oleai.  
JON PEREZ

Wishing you a bright and safe  
Holiday Season! May you celebrate love,  
peace, and happiness with your family  
and in your home.

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Wishing everyone peace, love, and a speedy recovery from Typhoon Yutu as we celebrate this season with family and friends.

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

From the Management & Staff of



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AWD that has shock absorbers in all four wheels, made for those who go off-roading to test new terrains.

The 2019 RAV4 also has a 7-inch multitouch screen and compatible with Apple Carplay, Amazon Alexa, and JBL audio systems. It has wireless charging with up to five USB ports.

The RAV4 brand has always been known as one of the safest cars to drive around and the 2019 model is no different, packed with a ton of driver assistance and safety features—as if having an extra pair of eyes while driving—like blind spot monitoring, pre-collision system and pedestrian detection through its front integrated camera and Toyota's Safety Sense Mechanism with the dynamic radar control, automatic emergency braking, lane departure alert when you are drifting out of your lane, and automatic adjustable high beams that's standard with the LE and Adventure.

The 2019 RAV4 also has a redesigned gas tank to distribute the weight evenly on the chassis. Gas mileage is estimated at 29 miles per gallon while one full tank of the hybrid model—for special orders only—comes at 600 mpg.

AK Saipan sales manager Glen V. Perez said they

are upbeat with the RAV4's 2019 edition. "The RAV4 has been one of Toyota's strongest products. The interest is there, so we expect sales to be great in the crossover SUV market. We're really excited for the new RAV4 since it is a great Toyota product that will be part of your family for a long time."

AK Saipan sales associate Curtis Dancoe said they already sold six units last Saturday while another six are expected to roll out of their showroom today. "The type of customer that we had today [Saturday] are the ones that had already done their research since last year when it was announced. Some want to trade in their vehicles and want to have this great-looking SUV."

The RAV4 price starts at \$29,399 for the base model, \$36,499 for the Adventure, and \$36,999 for the fully-equipped XLE Premium Adventure with offroad suspension. It is available in two-tone colors of Midnight Black Metallic, Blue Flame, and Lunar Rock—for pre-orders—with Ice Edge roof or the full-body options of Blue Flame, Lunar Rock, and Midnight Black Metallic.

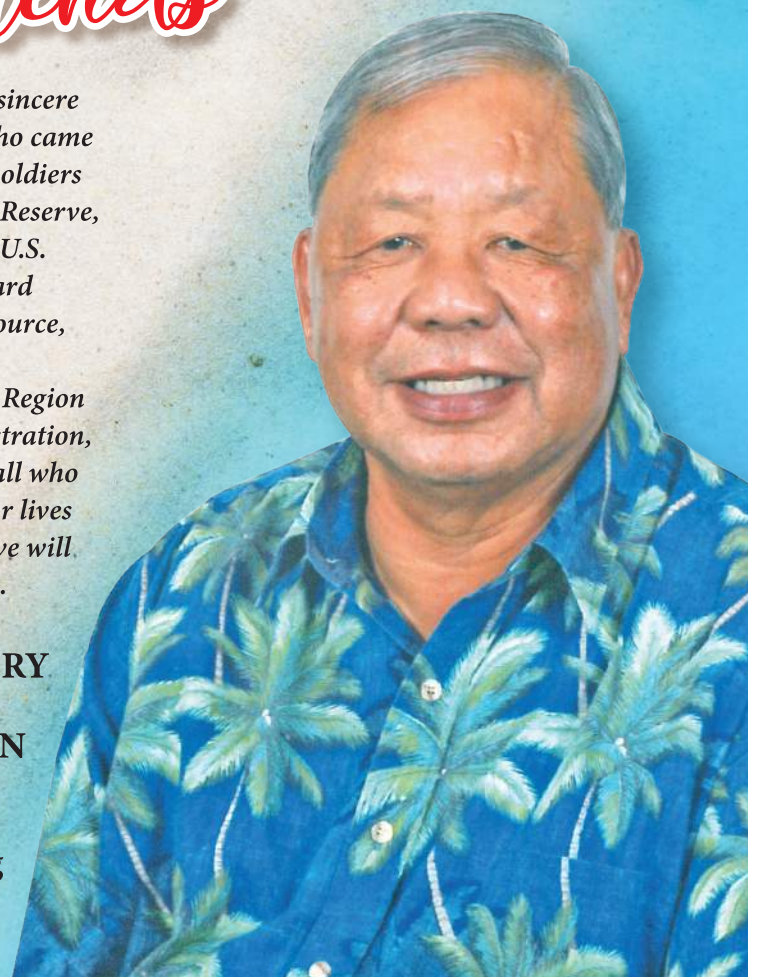
For more information, call 234-5911 and look for Dancoe or talk any of AK Saipan's sales associates.

## *Merry Christmas to Our Partners and Friends*

*This holiday season we want to express our most sincere Thank You, Si Yuus Maase, and Ghilisow to all who came to our island in our greatest time of need. To all soldiers from the Guam Army National Guard, the Army Reserve, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Guam Air National Guard 254th Red Horse Squadron, Colorado Primary Source, the Guam Power Authority, the Pohnpei Utilities Corporation, the Kosrae Utilities Authority, Joint Region Marianas Marine Corps, Small Business Administration, Samaritan's Purse, the American Red Cross and all who came to our aid in the most critical moment of our lives following the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu, we will forever be grateful for all your help and sacrifices.*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU. MAY THE ABUNDANT BLESSINGS OF OUR LORD GOD BE UPON YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ALWAYS.**

*From Mayor of Saipan David M. Apatang and Staff*





## DORE participant found to have violated supervised release

A participant of the Drug Offender Re-entry Program of the U.S. District Court for the NMI was found in violation of his supervised release for drinking an alcoholic beverage.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona immediately remanded Ryan Taitano Babauta last week to the U.S. Marshal Service so he could be confined for 24 hours as part of his punishment.

Babauta was allowed to get out of jail last Wednesday, but was required to turn himself in last Friday to begin serving another 48 hours of confinement.

Babauta was set to be released from custody yesterday

at 6pm.

Manglona set Babauta's next DORE program's session for Jan. 3, 2019.

At last week's DORE session, Manglona and DORE team members took up Babauta's violation, during which he apologized for his action.

The DORE Program recommended sanctions such as no credit for the month of December, increased court hearings, and report to probation office twice a week for breathalyzer tests.

Last April, U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy and DORE committee mem-

bers praised Babauta, after finding him in compliance with the term of his supervised release.

Babauta was among seven prisoners who staged a 14-hour hostage drama at the Department of Corrections in Susupe in 2009. At the time,

he was serving a prison term for voluntary manslaughter for killing a security guard in Chalan Kanoa.

In August 1999, the District Court slapped Babauta with an 18-month prison sentence and five years of supervised release, for hostage taking and felon in

possession of a firearm.

In November 2015, Manglona issued an arrest warrant against Babauta for allegedly using methamphetamine or "ice" and for violating other probation conditions.

Babauta then participated in the DORE Program.

DORE is a post-incarceration cooperative effort pro-

gram of the District Court, U.S. Probation Officer, Federal Public Defender, and U.S. Attorney's Office.

DORE provides treatment and sanction alternatives to address re-integration into the community for non-violent, substance abuse offenders released from federal prison.

*(Ferdie de la Torre)*

## CPA honors Guam airport executive

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors honored Guam airport executive manager Charles "Chuck" H. Ada II with a resolution last week for his help with the three international airports on Saipan, Ti-

nian, and Rota during three typhoons.

The CPA board unanimously adopted the resolution recognizing Ada's contributions to CPA and to the CNMI.

According to the CPA resolution, after Typhoon Soudelor

in 2015 and Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu this year, Ada has been a critical resource to CPA and has consistently offered his assistance through his open communication with CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio.

Ada assisted in the recov-

ery of the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport, the West Tinian International Airport, and the Benjamin T. Manglona-Rota International Airport by offering the services of the Guam airport and providing his expertise in airport-related matters.

*(Ferdie de la Torre)*

**Merry Christmas**  
**and Happy New Year!**

*From the management and staff of*  
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*We would like to wish you and your family a blessed Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year! One of the real joys this season brings is the opportunity for us to say thank you for your continuous support during the past year and the years to come! May you all have a hearty, festive holiday season.*

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## CANNABIS COMMISSIONERS

Matt Deleon Guerrero, front left, Valentino Taisacan Jr., front third from left, and Nadine Deleon Guerrero, front fourth from left, join House members and Northern Islands Mayor Vicente Santos Jr., front second from left, after they were confirmed last Friday at the House Chamber on Capital Hill as commissioners of the CNMI Cannabis Commission.

JON PEREZ

## ‘Survival’ reality show filmed in Marianas premieres in S. Korea

Nine episodes of the survival show “The Law of the Jungle” that were filmed in the Marianas premiered last Dec. 22 on South Korea’s SBS network.

The reality-documentary show features 15 celebrities, including Korean Olympic gold medalist swimmer Tawhwan Park, vying to survive on the islands of Tinian and Rota.

“SBS is Korea’s largest multi-media TV/radio network, and we were so excited to partner with them on the filming of ‘The Law of the Jungle’ in late October and early November this year,” said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. “We were amazed that they pushed through with the shooting schedule so soon after Super Typhoon Yutu, but it is fitting, as the show features celebrities sent to survive in remote locations around the world. Over the next nine weeks, we are looking forward to introducing some of the beautiful natural and hidden attractions of Tinian and Rota and showing Korea viewers that the Marianas is a beautiful place to visit, still.”

The project involved 50 people including the 15 celebrities and 35 production crew. The celebrities included show host Byungman Kim and oth-

er guests, including celebrity chef Yeonbok Lee. The production team stayed on Tinian from Oct. 31 to Nov. 4 and on Rota from Nov. 5 to Nov. 11. Poor weather conditions prevented their stay on Aguijan.

The cast and crew visited locations on Tinian including Chulu Beach, Long Beach, Blow Hole, and Taga Beach, where they experienced swimming for survival, hunting, gathering food, building shelters and diving. On Rota, they filmed at Mochong Beach, Tonga Cave, old Japanese cannon site, and other locations. They also made their own shelters, fished in the ocean, and went free diving.

“A teaser of the show showing Park swimming in the crystal-clear ocean of Rota generated a huge buzz in Korea when it was aired last week,” said MVA marketing manager Thomas Kim. “Overall, the production team was greatly satisfied with its filming on Tinian and Rota, despite the effects of Yutu, and we are grateful for the partnership.”

Over 400 news and feature articles have been published on major online news platforms about the program’s filming in the Marianas. The show will air every Friday at 10pm on SBS from Dec. 21, 2018, to Feb. 22, 2019. (MVA)

*A season of hope, a season of love, a season of blessing.  
May the divine light of Christmas  
shine in your life this season.*

**Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year!**

From the management and staff of



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“The Law of the Jungle,” a reality-documentary show produced by South Korea’s SBS network, will air nine weekly episodes filmed in the Marianas beginning Dec. 21, 2018. The filming project features 15 celebrities vying to survive in remote parts of the world and was coordinated by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

MVA





### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 19th birthday, Arron! We wish you nothing but happiness and good health. We pray that all your dreams and wishes will be fulfilled. We love you! Greetings come from your family. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

## MVA waives tour guide renewal fees until Jan. 31

In support of the recovery of the tourism industry following Super Typhoon Yutu, the Marianas Visitors Authority is temporarily waiving badge renewal fees for official Marianas guides.

Until Jan. 31, 2018, certified tour guides renewing their annual permits will be waived the \$20 renewal fee.

"Not only did Super Typhoon Yutu cause a temporary but significant drop in tours, but we know some business locations were destroyed and many business operators are still in recovery. This reasonable consideration in light of those difficulties is intended

to help," said MVA tour guide certification manager Kuen-Hee Han. "We are encouraging those tour guides who have already gone through the rigorous tour guide training to come

into the MVA office to renew their badges for another year."

Certified tour guides must provide traffic clearance, police clearance and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI to avail

of the waiver. Badges can be renewed at the MVA office from 8am to 12pm from Mondays to Thursdays or by appointment. Tour guides can renew their badges up to three months be-

fore the expiration date.

New tour guides must complete all documentation and training requirements to be certified. For an application and checklist, visit [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com), or for more information, contact Han at [khan@mymarianas.com](mailto:khan@mymarianas.com) or 664-3200. **(MVA)**

## SBA's Guam outreach center sets holiday hours

The U.S. Small Business Administration's Disaster Loan Outreach Center in Dededo, Guam, will be closed for Christmas and New Year's holidays on Monday, Dec. 24, Tuesday, Dec. 25, and Tuesday, Jan. 1.

SBA opened the center to provide personalized assistance to Guam businesses and

residents who were affected by Typhoon Manghut that occurred Sept. 10-11, 2018. Businesses and residents can meet with SBA representatives on the days and times indicated. No appointment is necessary.

The SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Center is located at the Astumbo Gym, 255 Cha-

lan Hachon, Dededo.

Applicants may apply online, receive additional disaster assistance information and download applications at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov).

Individuals who are hardofhearing may call (800) 877-8339. Completed applications should be mailed to U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The deadline to apply for property damage is Feb. 5, 2019. The deadline to apply for economic injury is Sept. 9, 2019. **(SBA)**



### COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION

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## AGENDA

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, December 27, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the Technology Room of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library (JKPL), in Susupe, Saipan.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

- I. **PRELIMINARIES:**
  - A. Call to Order
  - B. Roll Call
  - C. Adoption of Agenda
  - D. Adoption of Minutes: November 15, 2018
- II. **REPORTS:**
  - A. Report by the Chairman
  - B. Report by the Acting Executive Director
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- IV. **MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:**
  - A. Casino Licensee (IPI) Updates:
    1. Construction Progress – Imperial Pacific Resort & Hotel.
    2. IPI Personnel – Status of RIF, Resident Employment Objectives, & CLA Annual Plan.
    3. Responsible Gaming Program.
    4. Compliance Committee.
    5. Other Miscellaneous Matters.
  - B. Other Matters.
- V. **OLD BUSINESS:**
  - A. House Bill 20-82, HD1, SD1
- VI. **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - A. **New Public Laws:**
    1. **P.L. 20-82** – To establish a reserve fund to be used to meet the future needs of the Commonwealth.
    2. **P.L. 20-83** – To require all Commonwealth governmental entities to submit an annual "Citizen-Centric Report" of their activities.
  - B. **Notification of Pending Complaints for Incomplete Application and Recommendation for Denial of Application:**
    1. **Cementon Micronesia, LLC.** Supplier of Construction Materials. Provisional License Expiration ("PLE"): 04/30/18.
    2. **CERI Pacific Investment, Ltd.** Construction Engineering Services. PLE: 01/12/18.
    3. **Certis Security (Macau), Ltd.** Management Systems for Key Controls. PLE: 04/30/18.
    4. **Dongbei Saipan, Inc.,** (dba: Diamond Water). Supplier of Non-Potable Water. PLE: 10/30/18.
    5. **Dragon Cheng Pacific Corporation.** Construction Contractor and Rental. PLE: 08/21/18.
    6. **Haitian Construction Group (CNMI) Corporation.** General Construction Services. PLE: 07/24/18.
    7. **HCCG Building and Civil Engineering (Saipan), Ltd.** General Construction and Management. PLE: 06/13/18.
    8. **Ocean Construction (CNMI) Company, Ltd.** Real Estate Development & General Construction. PLE: 07/13/18.
  - C. **Request to Withdraw Application for Regular Casino Vendor License.**  
\* Letter from Gabriel Boyer, dated December 14, 2018. Boyer Trading Company, LLC (dba: Ginen Saipan). PLE: 04/30/18.
  - D. **Notification of Provisional Casino Key Employee License (1-year):**  
\* Mr. Mark Brown, Chairman, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC. Issued: 12/06/18; PLE: September 30, 2019.
  - E. **Approval for Regular Casino Service Provider License – Gaming (2-years):**  
\* PCCW Solutions, Ltd. Systems Integration Services. PLE: 12/30/2018.
  - F. **Approval for Regular Casino Vendor License – Non-Gaming (3-years):**
    1. **Delta Joint Creative Manufacturing Co., Limited.** Provider of Loose Furniture. PLE: 10/10/18.
    2. **Fujitec Pacific, Inc.** Elevator & Escalator Designer, Supplier, & Installer. PLE: 03/03/19.
    3. **J.M. Aquino P.C. Consulting Engineers.** Structural Engineering Services. PLE: 01/18/19.
    4. **Micros Fidelio Worldwide LLC.** Information Management Systems & Support Services. PLE: 12/31/18.
  - G. **Notification of Provisional Casino Vendor License – Non-Gaming (1-year):**
    1. **Andurance (China) Investment Co., Limited.** Supplier of Doors, Windows and Curtain Walls. Issued: 10/02/18; PLE: 10/01/19.
    2. **Pacific Eco Laundry, Inc.** Laundry & Dry-Cleaning Services. Issued: 10/11/18; PLE: 10/10/19.
    3. **Guangzhou Style Arts Co. Ltd.** Supplier of Construction Materials including Technical Support. Issued: 11/27/18; PLE: 11/26/19.
    4. **King Deco Engineering Limited.** Supplier of Decorative Gypsum Materials and Metal Filigrees. Issued: 11/26/18; PLE: 11/25/19.
    5. **SoftwareONE Hong Kong Limited.** Provider of Software Licenses. Issued: 11/26/18; PLE: 11/25/19.
- VII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**
  - A. IPI Financial Matters
  - B. Report by the CCC Audit Division
  - C. Report by the Legal Counsel
  - D. CCC Personnel Matters: Employment Contract Renewal (Executive Director)
- VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Commission reserves the right to amend this agenda and take action on the amended agenda pursuant to 1 CMC §9910(b). Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting for another day or more, if necessary.

Juan M. Sablan  
Chairman



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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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Pacific Islands News Association

## Take a deep breath, do something for the less fortunate and let the holidays flow

By **LAUREN RITCHIE**  
Orlando Sentinel

**H**as the Christmas spirit lost its sparkle? Here at the Ritchie Resort and Sunshine Sanitarium, we have stopped waiting on the sparkle. We're more into plan-ahead techniques to ward off exhaustion in a week where there is one day only to create and clean up a feast.

Still, the administrator at the sanitarium and her four-legged snapper-up of all goodies dropped to the floor, Lola, have come to a sort of truce with Christmas.

Years ago, this column featured a story about making gullets, the Christmas cookie of choice from the Belgian side of the family. My mother used to make untold dozens of them on a small iron that opens like a book to the size of a man's hands. The



Lamona Rivera couldn't stop the tears of gratitude on December 14, 2018, when Salvation Army volunteers brought out bundles of Christmas gifts for her two kids, 7-year-old Antonio and 6-year-old Londyn.

LESLIE BANKS/DREAMTIME/TNS

mountain of gullets grew and the addicting smell of vanilla and hot brown sugar drifted through the house.

Oh, they are wonderful things, gullets. They are a scrumptious combination of everything bad for you—a whole pound of butter, two pounds of brown sugar, a half dozen brown eggs and flour. The key ingredients are vanilla and whiskey.

You roll the dough into cigar-shaped pieces the size of your little finger and put them, two at a time, into the sizzling gullet iron and top it with a brick or, in my case, a three-pound sledge hammer, to squish the cookies into the tiny checkerboard pattern. There, they brown atop the stove on one side for about 40 seconds before you flip the iron to the other side.

See **HOLIDAYS** on Next PageMARGULIES  
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## Missing Dad and taking stock this Christmas

**T**his will be the second Christmas holiday without my father. Although I miss him every day—we used to talk on the phone, like clockwork, at 9:30 every morning—I think I miss the cantankerous old coot the most on the big holidays.

Dad could be—how to put this?—difficult. I'm in the opinion-writing business. Most things are debatable. My father was in the certainty business. An engineer by trade and disposition (if you've ever known an engineer, you'll know what I mean), he liked things a certain way, and that way was always his way, and his way was always the right way, and if it wasn't right, he would make sure it was somehow or another.

In his prime, he cooked the turkey and he cooked the roast. He ruled the table. He knew everything. We had some great fights.

The old man mellowed in his late 70s into his 80s. My mother likes to say he became kinder when his heart troubles began. He was less strident, more generous. Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners moved from my parents' house to The Smoke House in Burbank. We had good times there.

In 2014, Dad spent a week in the hospital for uncontrolled atrial fibrillation. It was during that stay that he exhibited some weird behaviors. His doctors weren't sure whether he'd had a mild stroke. A cat-scan ruled that out. His neurologist instead gave him the preliminary diagnosis of dementia.

After he was discharged, the specialist made him an appointment for a follow-up and a memory test. The first time, Dad rescheduled. Then he simply refused to go.

"What am I supposed to do when they tell me what I already know?" he asked plaintively. He didn't have to tell me what he meant. Alzheimer's took his mother after a torturous 10-year decline.

"Dad," I said, "they have different treatments now. It isn't like it was 20 years ago."

He was quiet for a minute. "I don't know, Ben." And that was that.

In the end, it wasn't the slow, cruel erosion of dementia that killed him, but rather something that looked like dementia at first. It was a subdural hematoma, most likely brought on by the medicine he took for his atrial fibrillation. One morning he simply couldn't get out of bed. He was gone in a matter of months.

I didn't grieve for my father for very long, but I still mourn his loss. When we gather around the dinner table at Thanksgiving and Christmas, I look at the empty chair at the opposite end and think about what he might say about the latest with Trump or Gavin Newsom's election or how the L.A. Clippers are doing this season.

But then I look around and reflect on what's left. My mother is alive and well and making new friends. His grandkids,

By **BEN BOYCHUK**  
The Sacramento Bee*Ben Boychuk is managing editor of American Greatness.*

whom he adored, are thriving. We have a solid roof over our heads and food on the table. We're mostly healthy, though age is taking its inevitable toll. We know we're blessed. We remember there are people less fortunate. We do what we can to brighten their holiday, too.

It's easy to fall into the trap of lamenting what's lost or what one may want and might not have. Christmas is a time for giving and receiving, and it's often a struggle to remember to be grateful in the face of disappointment. We humans are very good at that. We're an envious species.

We're also a broken one. Now more than ever, it seems, people are broken and lonely. Americans' life expectancy is falling as people are dying of despair.

I heard a podcast the other day with Joe Rogan and his actor-comedian friend Duncan Trussell. They were talking about depression and some very dark periods in their lives. Trussell explained he found solace in Eastern mysticism. Although that sort of thing isn't for everyone, the wisdom he gleaned has universal application.

It begins with a basic recognition that everyone has a purpose. Then acting on it. With that comes a realization that life is short and procrastination is deadly. Trussell came to ask himself: "How many tomorrows do I have?"

Christians think of it in a slightly different way, recalling Jesus' words from the gospel according to Matthew: "So you, too, must keep watch! For you do not know the day or hour of my return." Despair is a deadly sin in part because it drains you of purpose and tempts you to be inert, passive, and numb to the blessings of creation.

You don't have to accept the tenets of Christianity to see the point. I hope as you sit down to dinner this holiday, you will take a moment to reflect not just on the blessings of friends and family, or the gifts you may have received, but also the little things of daily life you may take for granted—you will miss them when they're gone.

I will think about my father and about living today—and however many tomorrows I may have—with purpose, love, and gratitude.



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Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## ‘Tis the season to be lazy

The world divides evenly into people who go nuts at Christmas and those who don’t.

You can guess which one I am.

I’m one of those who don’t, but only because I’m so lazy.

I admire those who do. And one day I will become one of them, I feel sure.

But just not yet.

Let me explain.

I’m constantly amazed by several friends of mine who are Christmas maniacs.

They have ordered Christmas cards way in advance, and the cards are already filled out, handwritten to the max, and in the mail by Dec. 1.

Not me.

As of this writing, on Dec. 17, I don’t have a card in the mail.

They’re being printed as we speak, and as soon as I can get to it, I’ll slap a computer-printed label on them and put them in the mail so they arrive just in time for Jan. 17.

But the differences don’t end there.

My Christmas-crazy friends often include with their cards a thoughtful, informative, and well-written newsletter about all of the things they have done that year as a family, including births, deaths, trips to Spain, SAT scores, and gallbladder operations.

Me, I got none of that.

My gallbladder is fine.

Actually, I have gas, but we’ll keep that between us.

I send out a newsletter for my business, which I write.

If you like my books, please sign up for it. The price is right—it’s free.

But I don’t want to do one for Christmas because it turns the holidays into homework.

Of course, my Christmas-crazy friends have already decorated their houses. They fill their homes with real wooden nutcrackers; garlands festoon their mantles and stairwells; and they have special pillows that are red and green, with funny Christmas

sayings like, Oh Deer Christmas Is Here, Merry Christmas You Filthy Animals, and, my personal favorite, Merry Christmas You Big Ho Ho Ho.

I ordered that pillow.

But I don’t know who to give it to.

All my friends are middle-aged women.

Our Ho Ho Ho days are Ho Ho Hover.

Meanwhile, I don’t have any decorations in my house yet.

And by yet, I mean ever.

I stopped hanging stockings above the fireplace because I kept forgetting to buy stocking-stuffers.

The only thing stuffing my stockings is lint.

I don’t even have a tree yet.

I always get one at the last minute, which is the only way to guarantee that you pay the most money possible for the ugliest possible tree.

Otherwise you can’t be sure.

It isn’t Christmas until you’ve paid fifty bucks for a branch.

But look on the bright side, you don’t pay extra for the Styro-foam cup of warm chocolatey water.

When Francesca was little, we used to go to a tree farm, pick out a tree, and cut it down with a hacksaw.

Those days are Ho Ho Hover, too.

Then I used to get a living tree that came in a big pot, with the idea being that I would plant it later.

But I could barely carry it out of the house, much less dig a hole, and when I did, the tree died anyway.

So now I buy trees that somebody else killed, and since only the ugliest and most expensive are left, I regard it as a rescue tree.

I know, what a humanitarian.

And then there’s Christmas lights.

I used to string colored lights on the tree in the front yard, which looked pretty but necessitated my going into the entrance hall at night and plugging them in, and unplugging them before bedtime.

What an effort!

By **LISA SCOTTOLINE**

Philly.com



It was exhausting. All that plugging and unplugging, plus you get that little spark each time. It scares me.

Also did I mention I’m lazy?

So no more lights.

And another thing I’ve noticed is that my Christmas-crazy friends are always giving one another ornaments.

And then they started giving me ornaments.

Which was great, because I started using the ornaments, hanging them on the tree and thinking of my friends, and all of a sudden, I realized that those ornaments had more meaning than the ornaments I had earlier.

So then guess what happened.

I started buying ornaments and giving them to my Christmas-crazy friends.

So you know where this is going.

One of these days, I’m going Christmas-crazy.

I just know it’s going to happen.

It’s so like me.

Over-the-top is my middle name.

And I like colorful things.

And Christmas is about happiness and joy, and there’s nothing wrong with excessive happiness, nor is there such a thing as too much joy.

I can almost smell the change in me.

It smells vaguely piney.

Ho Ho Ho!

## Nikki Haley isn’t so sure about the UN

As Nikki Haley finishes her tenure this month, the woman who has spent the last two years representing the U.S. at the United Nations has a question for the American public: Should the U.S. remain a member?

“The American people need to decide if it’s worth it,” she said in an interview with a small group of journalists this week. There is a lot of waste and abuse at the UN, she said, and it is often “politically unfair” to the U.S. and its allies. That said, she also noted that the UN was the vehicle for imposing tough sanctions on North Korea and an arms embargo on South Sudan.

“There are rays of light,” she said. “But the verdict is still out.”

It’s easy to see where Haley is coming from—during her tenure, the UN has had to deal with scandals of the self-inflicted and political variety. It continues to suffer the repercussions of child sex abuse by UN peacekeepers. Meanwhile Russia’s veto at the Security Council, “one of the most frustrating things about the UN,” continues to protect Syria from facing accountability for chemical weapons attacks.

Haley’s signature moment came when she threatened nations that voted against the U.S. after President Donald Trump announced the decision to move the U.S. embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. “You go in with body armor because you know you’re going to fight that day,” she said. “You just

don’t know who.”

At the same time, Haley showed an ability to work within the institution. In addition to the North Korea sanctions, Haley and her team pushed through a set of reforms to streamline the UN bureaucracy and cut some of the waste from the budget. She wisely gave up on trying to reform the farcical UN Human Rights Council, instead withdrawing the U.S. from it in June. She also advocated for better mechanisms to hold countries that send abusive peacekeepers to war zones more accountable.

Haley distinguished her approach to the job from that of her predecessor, Samantha Power. Power was very gracious when Haley first came on the job, Haley said, offering her advice on how to deal with different ambassadors and other tips. They did not discuss policy, however. “The previous administration, while they were well-intentioned, they just wanted all the other countries to like us,” Haley said.

Haley did not spend much time engaging with the envoys of rogue states and adversaries. She said she didn’t want to waste her time with the Cuban or Syrian ambassadors.

What about the U.S.’s two biggest geopolitical rivals—Russia and China? Russian diplomats, she said, were interested mainly in creating “distractions” and “chaos.” And the Chinese, she said, are becoming bolder with their economic power, telling

The first year, I just stood there and sobbed. We control freaks want everything to be perfect—I’d wanted Christmas to be just like when Mum was here. At the age of 35, you’d think I’d have known better: Nothing would be the same again. Deep down, I guess I knew it, and that was the real reason for the blubbing.

This year, for the first time in a decade or so, the gullets again developed a mind of their own. Close to a third of the cookies stuck in the little cast iron squares, and I got to dig them out with the point of a knife.

Frustration was building when I reminded myself that this is a First World problem. I thought back to Christmases at my grandparents’ farmhouse as a child and realized that every memory has to do with being together, with unexpected visitors at the kitchen door bringing cheer, with Pappy hitching up an unsuspecting pony to the sleigh—and yes, we actually

By **Eli Lake**

Bloomberg News

*Eli Lake is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering national security and foreign policy. He was the senior national security correspondent for the Daily Beast and covered national security and intelligence for the Washington Times, the New York Sun and UPI.*



smaller countries: “If you don’t vote with us, we are going to recall all of our loans.”

Ambassadors to foreign lands often retain some affection for their postings after they return home. Former ambassadors to the UN, not so much.

John Bolton, the former UN ambassador and current national security adviser, came away from his time in Turtle Bay even more skeptical of the institution than when he started. And Daniel Patrick Moynihan summed up his views in the title of his memoir about his time there. Forty years later, the United Nations remains, as Moynihan called it, “A Dangerous Place.” Just ask Nikki Haley.

## HOLIDAYS

From Page 14

This iron is not electric, so the baker has to keep the whole thing going at a consistent pace for the five or six hours it takes to make a full batch. Failure to keep turning the iron regularly results in one side getting hotter than the other, and then you have a burned side and a raw dough side.

Before my mother died 26 years ago, my sole job was to eat those rascals by the stacks. After her death, her gullet iron and recipe came to me, and there began the trouble. For five years, I couldn’t get them right. Which kind do you want, I’d ask family members. The kind that doesn’t taste like hers or the mutilated ones that stuck to the iron?

had an antique buggy that converted to a sleigh in winter. It was all a bit Norman Rockwell. No thoughts of cookies or expensive gifts intruded, only being with family and carrying food to others.






So, I went back to the gullets, drifting from memory to memory. Suddenly, gullets didn’t loom so large. My 95-year-old aunt texted her thoughts on gullets from Pennsylvania, “Never did like making those things.” She offered to cuss them long-distance for 15 or 20 minutes. I laughed. She’d do it, too.

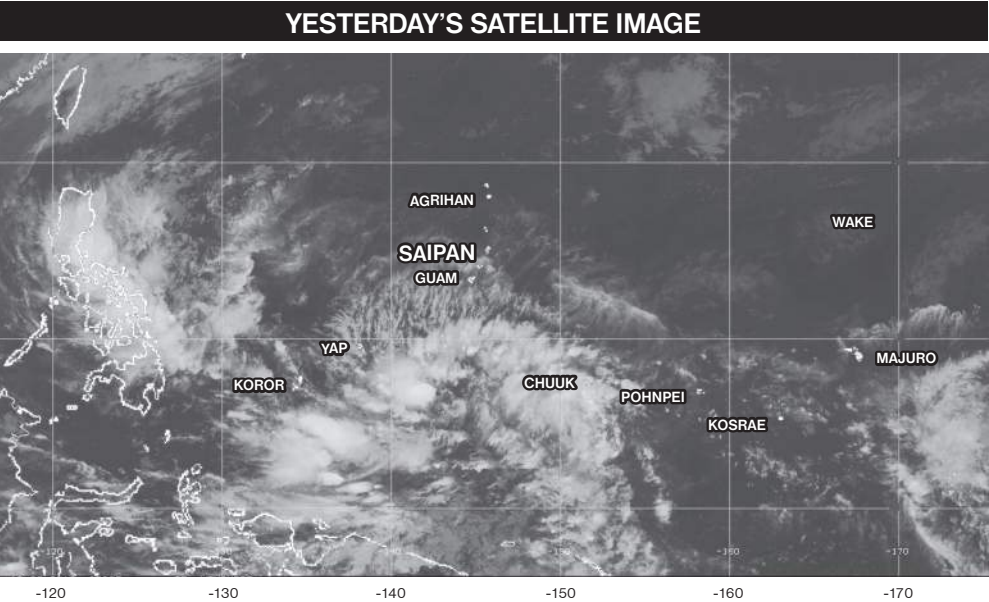
Gullets are a great tradition, but tapping into what really matters and letting go of the rest is the real key for the holidaymaker of the family.

So, hang in there folks. Take a deep breath. Rest yourself. Do something for the less fortunate. Let the holiday flow.



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Breezy. Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°



PICTURE TIME: 7:46 AM, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Mainly fresh, with occasional strong, trade winds will continue through the week. Frequent gusts to 25 knots are expected through this afternoon. A Small Craft Advisory for winds remains in effect through this afternoon. Latest model guidance shows the possibility that strong gusts could continue longer. Therefore, the Small Craft Advisory may need to be extended this afternoon. These persistent winds will continue to produce large easterly swell that will maintain a high risk of rip currents along east facing reefs at least through the middle of the week. Seas could approach 10 feet over southern Guam waters as early as this evening if the winds remain elevated.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	70° / 64°	
Beijing	Sunny	37° / 12°	
Hong Kong	Cloudy	72° / 66°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	81° / 72°	
London	Showers	52° / 39°	
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	70° / 51°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 75°	
Melbourne	Sunny	82° / 57°	
Miami	Cloudy	75° / 70°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	45° / 33°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	54° / 45°	
Paris	Showers	54° / 39°	
Busan	Cloudy	48° / 36°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	63° / 50°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	60° / 45°	
San Francisco	Rain	57° / 47°	
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	39° / 19°	
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	46° / 39°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	48° / 33°	



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:35 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.71	
9:37 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.09	
3:06 PM	LOW TIDE	1.18	
7:58 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.07	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:39 AM	5:53 PM
Tuesday	6:39 AM	5:53 PM
Wednesday	6:40 AM	5:54 PM
Thursday	6:40 AM	5:54 PM
Friday	6:41 AM	5:55 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	7:49 AM	7:31 PM
Tuesday	-	8:49 AM	8:35 PM
Wednesday	-	9:45 AM	9:38 PM
Thursday	-	10:37 AM	10:38 PM
Friday	-	11:25 AM	11:36 PM

### NEWS DESK

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 20, 2018							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA105	4:45pm	5:25pm	2, 4	UA104	3:00pm	3:41pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	Daily	7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
				7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED:				TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED:			
TW9308	1:10am	4:10am	3, 4	TW9307	6:30pm	12:10am+1	2, 3
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily	TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW9308	3:20am	6:30am	2				
TW9308	3:25am	6:30am	5	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily	TW9307	9:00pm	2:20am+1	1
				TW9307	9:05pm	:25am+1	4
				7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U86486	10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6	3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:15am	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA182/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7	PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
via GUM							
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via	UA192/174	10:30pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via
GUM-ROR							GUM-ROR
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:40pm	2 via GUM	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM				via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				
U043	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7	HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM	U042	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
				U042	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA105/159	4:45pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM	UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4 via GUM
				UA116/174	11:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5, 6
							via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily

1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily





*Wishing you and your family the Gift of Faith, the Blessings of Hope, and the Peace of His Love at Christmas and always.*



*Merry Christmas and  
a Happy New Year!*

*Kilili*

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan,  
Andrea and family

Paid for by *Kilili* for Congress



## PHOTOS By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The Pacific Islands Club Saipan in San Antonio reopened last Friday after almost two months after sustaining major damage when Super Typhoon Yutu devastated

Saipan and Tinian. PIC staff and E-Land Group executives led by its president, Matthew Park, welcomed the first group of tourists upon their arrival at the hotel Friday afternoon.



Governor Ralph DLG. Torres



Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog

## "A Season of Hope and Charity"

This Christmas season brings with it one universal message: Charity. With Super Typhoon Yutu compromising many things we cherish, the one thing it did not damage or destroy was our ingrained trait to give more than to receive.

We have given our time, resources, and our hearts and ears to help our friends and neighbors, and in turn it has not only brought ease and relief to our community, but it has enlivened the spirit of our islands that becomes enhanced at this special time of the year.

This holiday season is a different one for all of us, yet one we still welcome into our hearts with open arms. As we celebrate, let us remember now more than ever to cherish the company of our loved ones and be grateful for what we have. And as we enter a new year of promise, we can take solace in knowing that no matter what may come our way we will be a stronger and more resilient Marianas.

May this season of hope and charity enrich you and your families now and into the new year. From our families to yours,

*Felis Pásquan Noche Buena yan Felis Año Nuevo!  
Ammeseighil Ubwutiwel Layúl Lugh me Ráágh Fléé!*

RALPH DLG. TORRES

VICTOR B. HOCOG



# Business

## Govt unlikely to get fully back to business for days

WASHINGTON (AP)—The federal government is expected to remain partially closed past Christmas Day in a protracted standoff over President Donald Trump's demand for money to build a border wall with Mexico.

With Trump's insistence on \$5 billion for the wall and negotiations with Democrats in Congress far from a breakthrough, even a temporary measure to keep the government running while talks continued seems out of reach until the Senate returns for a full session Thursday.

From coast to coast, the first day of the shutdown played out in uneven ways. The Statue of Liberty was still open for tours, thanks to money from New York state, and the U.S. Post Office was still delivering mail, as an independent agency.

Yet the disruption has affected many government operations and the routines of 800,000 federal employees. Roughly 420,000 workers were deemed essential and were expected to work unpaid.

An additional 380,000 were to be furloughed, meaning they will stay home without pay. The Senate had already passed legislation ensuring that workers will receive back pay, and the House was likely to follow suit.

No one knew how long the closures would last. Unlike other shutdowns, this one seemed to lack urgency, coming during the long holiday weekend after Trump had already declared Monday, Christmas Eve, a federal holiday. Rather than work around the clock to try to end the shutdown, as they had done in the past, the leaders of the House and the Senate effectively closed up shop. But they didn't rule out action if a deal were struck.

"Listen, anything can happen," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell told reporters after he closed the Senate's rare Saturday session hours after it opened.

But after ushering Vice President Mike Pence through the Capitol for another round of negotiations, the Republi-

May your Christmas sparkle with moments of love, laughter, and goodwill, and may the year ahead be full of contentment and joy.

*Merry Christmas*  
and a happy new year

From the Management & Staff of

*Hafa Adai!*  
**Saipan Tribune**  
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



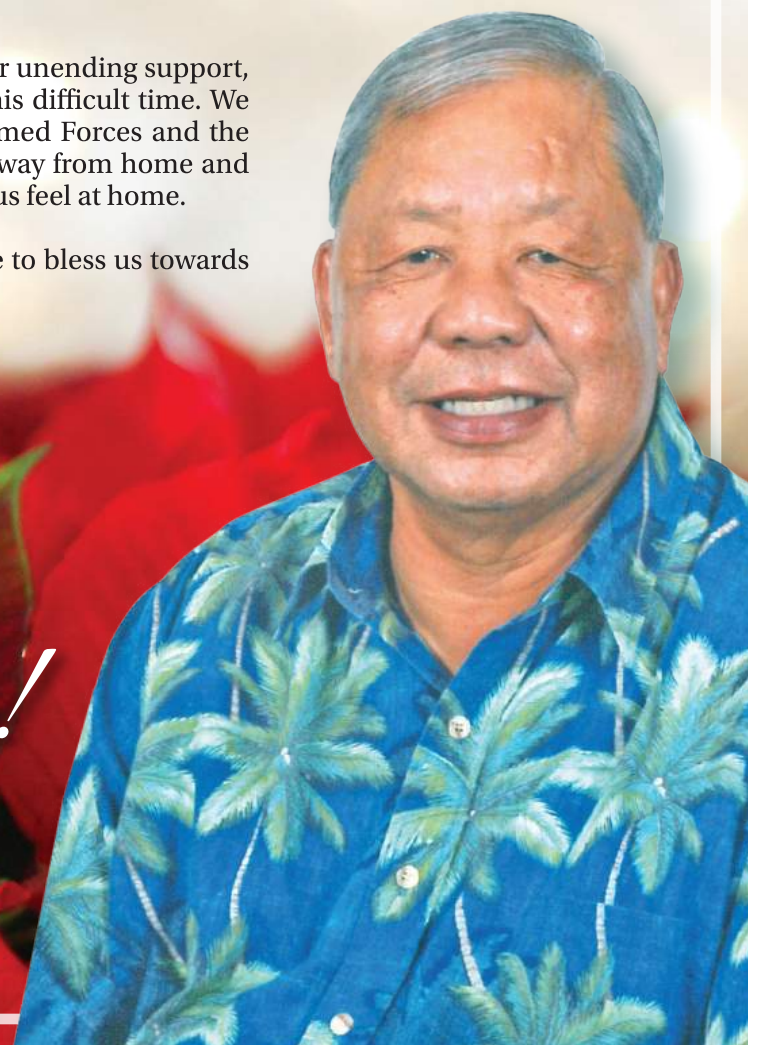
This holiday season, I send my warmest greetings to the people of Saipan and wish everyone a happy, safe, and relaxing Christmas and prosperous New Year. Although, most of us are still recovering from the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu, the genuine spirit of giving and sharing still abounds in each of us. The care and support each one of us offers our fellow neighbor and friends is symbolic in our character as an island community, that we all share a common value of solidarity and mutual respect.

I want to thank you, the people who make up our island community, for your unending support, unfailing generosity and encouragement in helping those in need during this difficult time. We must also remember to keep our men and women in the United States Armed Forces and the veterans in our prayers for their services in keeping us safe while they are away from home and loved ones. It is you that keeps our island going and it is you that make all of us feel at home.

I want to wish you all a peaceful Christmas and may our dear Lord continue to bless us towards the New Year. I am looking forward to continue working with you all in 2019.

*Merry Christmas and  
a Happy New Year!*

From Mayor of Saipan **David M. Apatang**  
and Staff





# Nation

## Mattis outlines hazards facing next DoD chief

WASHINGTON (AP)—The extraordinary resignation letter that Defense Secretary Jim Mattis handed to a surprised President Donald Trump was not just a product of two years of accumulating frustration with an impulsive boss, but an outline of the strategic hazards facing the next Pentagon chief.

Mattis, who was quietly back at work Friday while stunned Pentagon staff soldiered on around him, implicitly warned in his letter to the president of the threat to the U.S. from allowing alliances to fray and of the risk that dis-

respecting allies will undermine U.S. credibility.

It was an outline of the challenges facing the nation and who ever takes over as defense secretary when Mattis leaves Feb. 28.

“As this Administration continues to implode, Secretary Mattis’ extraordinary resignation is a significant loss and a real indication that President Trump’s foreign policy agenda has failed and continues to spiral into chaos,” said Sen. Bob Menendez, the ranking Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee.

Mattis announced on Thurs-

day his plan to resign, a move prompted by the decision by the president to pull all of the approximately 2,000 U.S. troops from the fight against the Islamic State group in northeastern Syria.

Mattis also was dismayed by plans under consideration to cut

the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan and, as his letter made clear, did not see eye to eye with a president who has expressed disdain for NATO and doubts about keeping troops in Asia.

The person nominated to succeed Mattis will face a Senate likely to probe for evidence of new strategic direction in hotspots like Syria, Afghanistan and the Korean peninsula.

In making clear that he could no longer tolerate Trump’s approach to American foreign policy, Mattis appeared to fashion a resignation letter that not only expressed his reasons for leaving but also sounded an alarm. He implicitly criticized the president’s unwillingness to stand up to Russia or take a stronger stance against Chinese assertiveness.

“I believe we must be resolute and unambiguous in our approach to those countries whose strategic interests are increasingly in tension with ours,” Mattis wrote. “It is clear that China and Russia, for example, want to shape a world consistent with their authoritative model ... to promote their own interests at the expense of their neighbors, America and our allies.”

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### 2 activists arrested at site of Alabama mall shooting

HOOVER, Ala. (AP)—Two activists have been arrested during a demonstration at an Alabama shopping mall where a black man was killed by police last month. Al.com reports the protesters were arrested Saturday afternoon at Hoover’s Riverchase Galleria while activists were silently holding banners that read “EJ was murdered here,” and “#HooverWrong.” Hoover police say Cara McClure was charged with trespassing, while Martez Files was arrested for disorderly conduct. The activists were protesting the shooting death of 21-year-old Emantic “EJ” Bradford Jr., who authorities mistook

for the suspect in a shopping mall shooting on Thanksgiving night. A police officer who heard the initial shots fatally wounded Bradford moments later after seeing him with a gun. Activists want police to release any footage they have of the shooting. It’s unclear if McClure or Files has an attorney.

#### Plane makes emergency landing on Alabama highway

TALLADEGA, Ala. (AP)—A small airplane made an emergency landing on an Alabama highway in front of shocked drivers. According to WXIA-TV, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Rick Breitenfeldt says the flight originated from Talladega Municipal Airport and

made the emergency landing nearby on Interstate 20 on Saturday afternoon. The FAA says the single-engine plane was carrying two people. Alabama State Troopers tell Al.com that the emergency landing was due to engine failure and no one was injured. One driver tweeted a video of the airplane moments after the landing.



#### Funeral held for Chicago police officer killed by train

CHICAGO (AP)—Hundreds crowded into Roman Catholic Church on Chicago’s South Side to remember the second of two officers struck and killed by a train. Officer Eduardo Marmolejo was celebrated as a humble hero during his funeral Sat-

urday. Gov. Bruce Rauner, Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson attended the funeral. To Marmolejo’s eldest daughter, the 36-year-old was a dedicated father of three, who taught her that it’s often small actions in life that have the biggest impact. Rebeca Marmolejo said it breaks her “heart into a million pieces” to never see her father again. Marmolejo’s service comes one day after the funeral of 31-year-old Officer Conrad Gary. The two were stuck by a passing train Monday while trying to find someone who had been shooting a gun.

#### A Grinch steals thousands of dollars of Christmas trees

BARTON, Vt. (AP)—A Grinch has hit a Vermont tree farm, stealing thousands of dollars of Christmas trees. The Caledonian Record reports that thieves cut the lock on a chained gate last month in Barton, drove onto the lot, and stole brush and 18 to 20 trees worth an estimated \$300 each. Greg Dowd, the owner of the property, says they also stole a game camera that was being used for surveillance. Dowd says the 20-foot trees that have been pruned for years were supposed to be sold to municipalities and churches in the future. He expects the thieves cut them up to use for wreaths. Dowd is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to an arrest.



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

### Office of the Executive Director

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### CUC-RFP-19-001

#### Repair of CUC Power Plant No. 2 Building Structure, Lower Base, Saipan, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Repair of CUC Power Plant No. 2 Building Structure, Saipan, Lower Base, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The work includes replacement of various building elements which were damaged due to the Typhoon Soudelor and also additional work required to strengthen the facility for improving its integrity with a view of withstanding elements of nature. CUC has performed partial work under an ongoing contract with another contractor.

*This project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from the above mentioned funding agencies.*

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **150 calendar days** from the date of issuance of the Notice to Proceed.

Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$150.00 for one RFP package set.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be scheduled on **December 18, 2018 at 10:00 am (ChST)**, at the power plant conference room, followed by a site visit. **All attendees are required to arrive with appropriate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). The attendance in the conference and site visit is mandatory to ensure that the parties are fully familiar with the existing site conditions.**

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-RFP-19-001 - Repair of CUC Power Plant No. 2 Building Structure, Saipan, Lower Base, CNMI”**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 4, 2019**. Late submissions and conditional Proposals will not be considered. Proposal shall be submitted on the provided Proposal Forms. Proposers are required to complete all Proposal Forms. Proposers may supplement the form as appropriate. Proposals will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 90 days after submission.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total Proposal price must accompany the Proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or Proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total Proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposers. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsive offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.



Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 19, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email - manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Project Manager - via email venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Senior Purchasing Assistant-via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and waive any imperfection in the Proposal in the best interest of the government. All Proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO  
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

### Office of the Executive Director

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### CUC-RFP-19-002

#### LEASE OF OFFICE SPACE FOR CUC ROTA ADMINISTRATION & OPERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms for the lease of office space for CUC Administration and Operation, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed office space must conform to American Disabilities Act (ADA), OSHA and CNMI Zoning regulation.

The RFP package may be obtained at the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section (Saipan, Tinian or Rota), by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$20.00 for one RFP package set. The RFP package will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered Proponents email ID. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division to be considered.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-RFP-19-002, Lease of Office Space for CUC Rota Administration & Operation”** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 7, 2019**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 21, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christie Sablan, Senior Purchasing Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO  
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator



Asia

A blow to morale: Afghan generals worry about US withdrawal

**ISLAMABAD** (AP)—The Taliban welcomed news of the U.S. plan to withdraw half its troops in Afghanistan by the summer, as Afghan generals warned it would be a blow to the morale of the country’s beleaguered security forces who come under daily attacks from the insurgent fighters.

The announcement seems certain to complicate efforts to reach a peace deal, mostly because it gives the Taliban

leverage by allowing them to hold off until a total U.S. withdrawal, or step up their demands over a weakened Afghan government.

“I believe the Taliban will see this as a reason to stall, and therefore it disincentivizes the Taliban to actually talk to the Afghan government, which it has refused to do,” said Bill Roggio, an Afghanistan analyst with the Washington-based Foundation for Defense

of Democracies.

Afghanistan’s security forces rely heavily on U.S. airpower against both Taliban and an upstart Islamic State affiliate, and Afghan military officials note the announcement by the Trump administration comes as the country’s security is at its worst since 2014, when more than 100,000 NATO troops pulled out of the country and handed off security to Afghans. The U.S. and

NATO retreated into a training and advising role.


“A complete withdrawal of U.S. forces would very likely cause the Taliban to make gains in key areas throughout Afghanistan,” Roggio said. “This likely would cause the general collapse of the (Afghan National Security and Defense Force) as a cohesive fighting force and lead to the return of the warlords.”

President Donald Trump con-

siders the war in Afghanistan a lost cause and has long pushed to pull the troops out. His decision was made public a mere few hours after he abruptly announced the U.S. was withdrawing troops from Syria.

Trump’s state of mind is sure to have given a sense of urgency to U.S. peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, who has been working to reach a negotiated end to America’s longest war and has been pushing for a deal by April.

In an interview with Afghanistan’s TOLO TV on Thursday—hours before the withdrawal plans were announced—he noted Trump had campaigned for president on a promise to end the Afghan war, which has already cost Americans nearly \$1 trillion. More than 2,400 American soldiers have also died in Afghanistan since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion.



**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055  
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport  
“Car Rental Concessions”  
CPA-RFP-002-19  
Request for Proposals**  
for:  
**CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-01  
CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-02  
CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-03  
CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-04  
CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-05  
CPA Concession No. CRS-2018-06**


The Commonwealth Ports Authority (“CPA” or “Authority”) is soliciting proposals for the award of six (6) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport (“Car Rental Concessions”). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport for a period of three years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-002-19 is **December 05, 2018**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:30 p.m. on January 09, 2019**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$200.00 (cashier's checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director



**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055  
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**Tinian International Airport  
“Car Rental Concessions”  
CPA-RFP-003-19  
Request for Proposals**  
for:  
**CPA Concession No. CRT-2018-07  
CPA Concession No. CRT-2018-08  
CPA Concession No. CRT-2018-09**


The Commonwealth Ports Authority (“CPA” or “Authority”) is soliciting proposals for the award of three (3) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Tinian International Airport (“Car Rental Concessions”). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Tinian International Airport for a period of three years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-003-19 is **December 05, 2018**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:30 p.m. on January 09, 2019**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$200.00 (cashier's checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director



**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055  
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**Benjamin Taisacan Manglona/Rota International Airport  
“Car Rental Concessions”  
CPA-RFP-004-19  
Request for Proposals**  
for:  
**CPA Concession No. CRR-2018-10  
CPA Concession No. CRR-2018-11  
CPA Concession No. CRR-2018-12**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (“CPA” or “Authority”) is soliciting proposals for the award of three (3) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona/Rota International Airport (“Car Rental Concessions”). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona/Rota International Airport for a period of three years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-004-19 is **December 05, 2018**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:30 p.m. on January 09, 2019**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$200.00 (cashier's checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Proposed Amendment to the Official  
Saipan Zoning Map (Rezone)**  
**for**  
**RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction**


The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking your comments on the following proposed amendment (rezone) to the Official Saipan Zoning Map. RJCL Corporation dba RNV Corporation is requesting to rezone Lots # EA 109 NEW-1 in Chalan Kiya, from “Village Residential” to “Village Commercial” zoning district. A public hearing will be held on:

**Date: Thursday, January 24, 2019**  
**Time: 5:00 pm**  
**Place: To Be Announced**

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3:00 pm, January 23, 2019. Please send written comments via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ *Diego C. Blanco, Chairman*



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**  
**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**  
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514  
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**12/24/18**  
**Notice for Public Comment**  
**Reprogramming of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds**

Program Year:	Program:	Activity Name:	Subrecipient:	Approved Budget:	Proposed Reprogramming Amount:	Proposed Revised Project Budget:	Current IDIS Funded Amount:
2014	CDBG	CDBG Planning and Administrative Cost 2014	NMHC	\$193,092.20	(\$109,070.75)	N/A	\$193,092.20
2015	CDBG	15 CDBG Planning and Administrative Cost	NMHC	\$194,186.00	(\$190,929.25)	\$3,256.75	\$194,186.00
			<b>Total:</b>		<b>(\$300,000.00)</b>		
2018	CDBG	Super Typhoon Yutu Debris Removal for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota	Saipan Mayors Office (New)		\$250,000.00	N/A	N/A
2018	CDBG	Super Typhoon Yutu Debris Removal for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota	Tinian Mayors Office (New)		\$25,000.00	N/A	N/A
2018	CDBG	Super Typhoon Yutu Debris Removal for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota	Rota Mayors Office (New)		\$25,000.00	N/A	N/A
			<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$300,000.00</b>		

Our agency through its Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) requires our agency to publish a “Public Notice” on reprogramming of funds over \$50,001.00. Therefore, comments from the general public should be submitted to NMHC Central office located in Garapan, Saipan on or before January 23, 2019, no later than 10 a.m. You may contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer at (670)234-6866/9447.



ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistan praises plan for US troop withdrawal in Afghanistan

MULTAN, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan’s foreign minister has welcomed President Donald Trump’s decision to withdraw half the U.S.’s troops from Afghanistan. Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Saturday told reporters in the central city of Multan that the decision is good for ongoing peace talks between the Afghan Taliban and the U.S. Qureshi says Pakistan welcomes the peace discussions that took place earlier

this week in Abu Dhabi and will continue to support the Afghan peace process. The minister said Pakistan has released some Taliban to help facilitate the talks. The latest talks between the Taliban and U.S. special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad focused on the withdrawal of NATO troops, the release of prisoners and halting attacks on civilians by pro-government forces. Khalilzad has tweeted that talks held in United Arab Emirates were “productive.”

Fresh anti-India protests in Kashmir as

troops kill 6 rebels

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—A gunbattle between Indian troops and Kashmiri rebels early Saturday left six militants dead and triggered a new round of anti-India protests in the disputed Himalayan region. The fighting began after government forces came under fire during a raid on a militant hideout in the southern Tral area, according to police. Troops retaliated and six militants were killed in the brief exchange of fire, police said. As the news of the killings spread, hundreds of civilians took to the

streets in Tral town, clashing with government forces at several places. No injuries were immediately reported. In a separate incident, India’s army accused rival Pakistan of opening fire in the Keran sector of Kashmir and killing two Indian army officers on Friday. The Indian army called the firing a violation of the 2003 cease-fire accord between the nuclear-armed rivals, who both claim the divided territory of Kashmir in its entirety.

Ghosn’s detention puts Japan justice system

under microscope

TOKYO (AP)—Since his arrest on suspicion of falsifying financial reports, Nissan’s former Chairman Carlos Ghosn has been sitting in a humble cell for more than a month, interrogated day in and day out, without a lawyer present. His case is drawing attention to the criminal justice system in Japan, where there is no presumption of innocence and the accused can be held for months before trial. The system, sometimes called “hostage justice,” has come under fire from human rights advo-

cates. When a court denied Tokyo prosecutors’ request to detain Ghosn another 10 days on Dec. 20, it was so unusual that the Japanese media reported he might be released. But such speculation was dashed when prosecutors rearrested him a day later on suspicion of breach of trust, tagging on a new set of allegations centered on Ghosn’s shifting personal investment losses of some 1.8 billion yen (\$16 million) to Nissan Motor Co. On Sunday, a court approved prosecutors’ request to detain him through Jan. 1.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

COMPANY: IMPERIAL PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC  
JOB TITLE: Crane and Tower Operator  
NUMBER OF OPENING: 20  
WAGES/SALARY: \$21.25 per hour / Overtime Rate: \$31.88 per hour

EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION

This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2019 and ending on January 30, 2020.

JOB LOCATION

Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

JOB DUTIES

- Determine load weights and check them against lifting capacities to prevent overload.
- Move levers, depress foot pedals, or turn dials to operate cranes, cherry pickers, electromagnets, or other moving equipment for lifting, moving, or placing loads.
- Inspect and adjust crane mechanisms or lifting accessories to prevent malfunctions or damage.
- Inspect cables or grappling devices for wear and install or replace cables, as needed.
- Direct helpers engaged in placing blocking or outrigging under cranes.
- Clean, lubricate, and maintain mechanisms such as cables, pulleys, or grappling devices, making repairs as necessary.
- Load or unload bundles from trucks or move containers to storage bins, using moving equipment.
- Review daily work or delivery schedules to determine orders, sequences of deliveries, or special loading instructions.
- Inspect bundle packaging for conformance to regulations or customer requirements and remove and batch packaging tickets.
- Direct truck drivers backing vehicles into loading bays and cover, uncover, or secure loads for delivery.
- Weigh bundles, using floor scales, and record weights for company records

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

24 months of on-the-job experience as a Crane and Tower Operator is a minimum requirement for this position.

WORK HOURS

Employees hired under this announcement will work on full time employment thirty-five (35) hours per week. Each day is 7 working hours with pay and 1 hour duty break with no pay. Each week will have 2 full rest day. There will be a rotating three (3) shifts per day. Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three (3) shifts on an ongoing basis until the project is complete. Standard salary per hour is \$21.25 and the time worked over forty (40) hours per week will be compensated at an overtime rate of \$31.88.

JOB LOCATION

Work will be performed at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan worksite.

SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY

The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

FREQUENCY OF PAY

Workers will be paid on bi-weekly basis by check.

HOUSING & MEAL

The employer will provide housing during the employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

DEDUCTIONS

The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by law.

INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE

The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. The amount of transportation payment or reimbursement will be equal to the most economical and reasonable common carrier for the distances involved, provided that the amount for daily subsistence will be at least \$12.26 per day during travel to a maximum of \$51.00 per day with receipts.

DAILY TRANSPORTATION

The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT

Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Employees are required to wear protective equipment i.e. safety hat, safety shoes, goggles, or other garments or equipment at all times during the work hours at the construction site. Employees are also required to follow all safety regulations.

RECRUITMENT INFORMATION

Please visit Imperial Pacific Recruitment office located at Vescor Office #6, Capitol Hill, Saipan or contact our recruitment team at 670-237-9901.

SWA CONTACT INFORMATION

Please inquire about the job opportunity or send applications and/or resumes, indicating availability, to CNMI Department of Labor at Building #1356 Medinilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 or visit their website at www.marianaslabor.net.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

COMPANY: IMPERIAL PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC  
JOB TITLE: Steel Worker  
NUMBER OF OPENING: 50  
WAGES/SALARY: \$14.55 per hour / Overtime Rate: \$21.83 per hour

EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION

This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2019 and ending on January 30, 2020.

JOB LOCATION

Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

JOB DUTIES

- Read specifications or blueprints to determine the locations, quantities, or sizes of materials required. Connect columns, beams, and girders with bolts, following blueprints and instructions from supervisors. Bolt aligned structural steel members in position for permanent riveting, bolting, or welding into place. Fasten structural steel members to hoist cables, using chains, cables, or rope.
- Hoist steel beams, girders, or columns into place, using cranes or signaling hoisting equipment operators to lift and position structural steel members.
- Verify vertical and horizontal alignment of structural steel members, using plumb bobs, laser equipment, transits, or levels.
- Cut, bend, or weld steel pieces, using metal shears, torches, or welding equipment.
- Erect metal or precast concrete components for structures, such as buildings, bridges, dams, towers, storage tanks, fences, or highway guard rails. Force structural steel members into final positions, using turnbuckles, crowbars, jacks, or hand tools.
- Pull, push, or pry structural steel members into approximate positions for bolting into place.
- Unload and position prefabricated steel units for hoisting as needed.
- Drive drift pins through rivet holes to align rivet holes in structural steel members with corresponding holes in previously placed members.
- Assemble hoisting equipment or rigging, such as cables, pulleys, or hooks, to move heavy equipment or materials.
- Fabricate metal parts, such as steel frames, columns, beams, or girders, according to blueprints or instructions from supervisors.
- Dismantle structures or equipment. Ride on girders or other structural steel members to position them or use rope to guide them into position.
- Hold rivets while riveters use air hammers to form heads on rivets.
- Insert sealing strips, wiring, insulating material, ladders, flanges, gauges, or valves, depending on types of structures being assembled.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

12 months of on-the-job experience as a Steel Worker is a minimum requirement for this position.

WORK HOURS

Employees hired under this announcement will work on full time employment thirty-five (35) hours per week. Each day is 7 working hours with pay and 1 hour duty break with no pay. Each week will have 2 full rest day. There will be a rotating three (3) shifts per day. Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three (3) shifts on an ongoing basis until the project is complete. Standard salary per hour is \$14.55 and the time worked over forty (40) hours per week will be compensated at an overtime rate of \$21.83

JOB LOCATION

Work will be performed at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan worksite.

SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY

The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

FREQUENCY OF PAY

Workers will be paid on bi-weekly basis by check.

HOUSING & MEAL

The employer will provide housing during the employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

DEDUCTIONS

The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by law.

INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE

The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. The amount of transportation payment or reimbursement will be equal to the most economical and reasonable common carrier for the distances involved, provided that the amount for daily subsistence will be at least \$12.26 per day during travel to a maximum of \$51.00 per day with receipts.

DAILY TRANSPORTATION

The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT

Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Employees are required to wear protective equipment i.e. safety hat, safety shoes, goggles, or other garments or equipment at all times during the work hours at the construction site. Employees are also required to follow all safety regulations.

RECRUITMENT INFORMATION

Please visit Imperial Pacific Recruitment office located at Vescor Office #6, Capitol Hill, Saipan or contact our recruitment team at 670-237-9901.

SWA CONTACT INFORMATION

Please inquire about the job opportunity or send applications and/or resumes, indicating availability, to CNMI Department of Labor at Building #1356 Medinilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 or visit their website at www.marianaslabor.net.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

COMPANY: IMPERIAL PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC  
JOB TITLE: Welder  
NUMBER OF OPENING: 300  
WAGES/SALARY: \$8.35 per hour / Overtime Rate: \$12.53 per hour

EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION

This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2019 and ending on January 30, 2020.

JOB LOCATION

Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

JOB DUTIES

- Weld components in flat, vertical, or overhead positions. Operate safety equipment and use safe work habits.
- Lay out, position, align, and secure parts and assemblies prior to assembly, using straightedges, combination squares, calipers, and rulers.
- Examine work pieces for defects and measure work pieces with straightedges or templates to ensure conformance with specifications.
- Recognize, set up, and operate hand and power tools common to the welding trade, such as shielded metal arc and gas metal arc welding equipment.
- Weld separately or in combination, using aluminum, stainless steel, cast iron, and other alloys.
- Clamp, hold, tack-weld, heat-bend, grind or bolt component parts to obtain required configurations and positions for welding.
- Select and install torches, torch tips, filler rods, and flux, according to welding chart specifications or types and thicknesses of metals.
- Ignite torches or start power supplies and strike arcs by touching electrodes to metals being welded, completing electrical circuits.
- Connect and turn regulator valves to activate and adjust gas flow and pressure so that desired flames are obtained.
- Determine required equipment and welding methods, applying knowledge of metallurgy, geometry, and welding techniques.
- Monitor the fitting, burning, and welding processes to avoid overheating of parts or warping, shrinking, distortion, or expansion of material.
- Operate manual or semi-automatic welding equipment to fuse metal segments, using processes such as gas tungsten arc, gas metal arc, flux-cored arc, plasma arc, shielded metal arc, resistance welding, and submerged arc welding.
- Analyze engineering drawings, blueprints, specifications, sketches, work orders, and material safety data sheets to plan layout, assembly, and welding operations.
- Mark or tag material with proper job number, piece marks, and other identifying marks as required.
- Chip or grind off excess weld, slag, or spatter, using hand scrapers or power chippers, portable grinders, or arc-cutting equipment.
- Remove rough spots from workpieces, using portable grinders, hand files, or scrapers.
- Prepare all material surfaces to be welded, ensuring that there is no loose or thick scale, slag, rust, moisture, grease, or other foreign matter.
- Preheat workpieces prior to welding or bending, using torches or heating furnaces.
- Develop templates and models for welding projects, using mathematical calculations based on blueprint information.
- Position and secure workpieces, using hoists, cranes, wire, and banding machines or hand tools.
- Guide and direct flames or electrodes on or across workpieces to straighten, bend, melt, or build up metal.
- Detect faulty operation of equipment or defective materials and notify supervisors.
- Clean or degrease parts, using wire brushes, portable grinders, or chemical baths.
- Cut, contour, and bend metal plates and structural shapes to dimensions as specified by blueprints, layouts, work orders, and templates, using powered saws, hand shears, or chipping knives. Repair products by dismantling, straightening, reshaping, and reassembling parts, using cutting torches, straightening presses, and hand tools.
- Fill holes, and increase the size of metal parts. Check grooves, angles, or gap allowances, using micrometers, calipers, and precision measuring instruments.
- Operate metal shaping, straightening, and bending machines, such as brakes and shears.
- Set up and use ladders and scaffolding as necessary to complete work.
- Hammer out bulges or bends in metal workpieces.
- Dismantle metal assemblies or cut scrap metal, using thermal-cutting equipment, such as flame-cutting torches or plasma-arc equipment.
- Signal crane operators to move large workpieces.
- Use fire suppression methods in industrial emergencies. Estimate materials needed for production and manufacturing and maintain required stocks of materials.
- Join parts such as beams.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

24 months of on-the-job experience as a Welder is a minimum requirement for this position.

WORK HOURS

Employees hired under this announcement will work on full time employment thirty-five (35) hours per week. Each day is 7 working hours with pay and 1 hour duty break with no pay. Each week will have 2 full rest day. There will be a rotating three (3) shifts per day. Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three (3) shifts on an ongoing basis until the project is complete. Standard salary per hour is \$8.35 and the time worked over forty (40) hours per week will be compensated at an overtime rate of \$12.53.

JOB LOCATION

Work will be performed at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan worksite.

SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY

The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

FREQUENCY OF PAY

Workers will be paid on bi-weekly basis by check.

HOUSING & MEAL

The employer will provide housing during the employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

DEDUCTIONS

The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by law.

INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE

The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. The amount of transportation payment or reimbursement will be equal to the most economical and reasonable common carrier for the distances involved, provided that the amount for daily subsistence will be at least \$12.26 per day during travel to a maximum of \$51.00 per day with receipts.

DAILY TRANSPORTATION

The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT

Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Employees are required to wear protective equipment i.e. safety hat, safety shoes, goggles, or other garments or equipment at all times during the work hours at the construction site. Employees are also required to follow all safety regulations.

RECRUITMENT INFORMATION

Please visit Imperial Pacific Recruitment office located at Vescor Office #6, Capitol Hill, Saipan or contact our recruitment team at 670-237-9901.

SWA CONTACT INFORMATION

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# World

## Syria sends reinforcements east after Trump’s pullout plan

**BEIRUT (AP)**—Syrian troops have sent reinforcements to the eastern province of Deir el-Zour close to an enclave controlled by the Islamic State group and along the front with U.S.-backed Kurdish-led fighters, a war monitor and pro-government pages on social media said Saturday.

The reinforcements arrived after U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday announced he was pulling all

2,000 U.S. troops out of Syria. Trump has now declared victory over IS, contradicting assessments by his own experts, with many lawmakers calling his decision rash and dangerous.

A senior Kurdish politician on Friday called on France to play a larger role in Syria following the U.S. withdrawal.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the government sent thousands of its elite forc-

es to Deir el-Zour that borders Iraq, where IS holds the last area under its control in Syria.

The Observatory said the troops and pro-government fighters were deployed on the west banks of the Euphrates River close to the IS-held enclave, mostly in the towns of Mayadeen and Boukamal. It added that troops brought to the area include members of the Tiger Force, an elite unit that defeated rebels and IS gunmen on several fronts over the past two years.

A pro-government Facebook page posted a photo of Tiger Force commander Brig. Gen. Suheil and also reported that troops under his command have arrived in Deir el-Zour. It also posted photos of military vehicles said to be arriving in the area.

U.S.-backed Syrian fighters of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces have been

trying to capture the area from IS since Sept. 10. The battles have left hundreds of IS and SDF fighters dead.

On Friday, senior Kurdish politician Ilham Ahmed warned in Paris that SDF fighters may have to withdraw from the front lines in the fight against IS to deploy along the borders with Turkey after Ankara said it plans to carry an attack.

The Observatory’s chief, Rami Abdurrahman, said the troops were deployed for a possible attack on IS or to assume control of areas that could be evacuated by SDF fighters.

In Washington, Brett McGurk, the U.S. envoy to the global coalition fighting IS, has resigned in protest to Trump’s abrupt decision to withdraw U.S. troops from Syria, joining Defense Secretary Jim Mattis in an administration exodus of experienced national security officials.

### FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

**COMPANY:** IMPERIAL PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC  
**JOB TITLE:** Electrician  
**NUMBER OF OPENING:** 240  
**WAGES/SALARY:** \$8.00 per hour / Overtime Rate: \$12.00 per hour

**EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION**  
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2019 and ending on January 30, 2020.

**JOB LOCATION**  
Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

**JOB DUTIES**

- Plan layout and installation of electrical wiring, equipment, or fixtures, based on job specifications and local codes. Connect wires to circuit breakers, transformers, or other components.
- Test electrical systems or continuity of circuits in electrical wiring, equipment, or fixtures, using testing devices, such as ohmmeters, voltmeters, or oscilloscopes, to ensure compatibility and safety of system. Use a variety of tools or equipment, such as power construction equipment, measuring devices, power tools, and testing equipment, such as oscilloscopes, ammeters, or test lamps.
- Inspect electrical systems, equipment, or components to identify hazards, defects, or the need for adjustment or repair, and to ensure compliance with codes.
- Prepare sketches or follow blueprints to determine the location of wiring or equipment and to ensure conformance to building and safety codes.
- Diagnose malfunctioning systems, apparatus, or components, using test equipment and hand tools to locate the cause of a breakdown and correct the problem.
- Work from ladders, scaffolds, or roofs to install, maintain, or repair electrical wiring, equipment, or fixtures.
- Advise management on whether continued operation of equipment could be hazardous.
- Maintain current electrician's license or identification card to meet governmental regulations.
- Place conduit, pipes, or tubing, inside designated partitions, walls, or other concealed areas, and pull insulated wires or cables through the conduit to complete circuits between boxes.
- Direct or train workers to install, maintain, or repair electrical wiring, equipment, or fixtures.
- Repair or replace wiring, equipment, or fixtures, using hand tools or power tools. Install ground leads and connect power cables to equipment, such as motors.
- Assemble, install, test, or maintain electrical or electronic wiring, equipment, appliances, apparatus, or fixtures, using hand tools or power tools.
- Perform business management duties, such as maintaining records or files, preparing reports, or ordering supplies or equipment.
- Fasten small metal or plastic boxes to walls to house electrical switches or outlets.
- Construct or fabricate parts, using hand tools, according to specifications.
- Perform physically demanding tasks, such as digging trenches to lay conduit or moving or lifting heavy objects.
- Provide assistance during emergencies by operating floodlights or generators, placing flares, or driving needed vehicles.
- Provide preliminary sketches or cost estimates for materials or services.

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**  
24 months of on-the-job experience as an Electrician is a minimum requirement for this position.

**WORK HOURS**  
Employees hired under this announcement will work on full time employment thirty-five (35) hours per week. Each day is 7 working hours with pay and 1 hour duty break with no pay. Each week will has 2 full rest day. There will be a rotating three (3) shifts per day. Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three (3) shifts on an ongoing basis until the project is complete. Standard salary per hour is \$8.00 and the time worked over forty (40) hours per week will be compensated at an overtime rate of \$12.00.

**JOB LOCATION**  
Work will be performed at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan worksite.

**SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY**  
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

**FREQUENCY OF PAY**  
Workers will be paid on bi-weekly basis by check.

**HOUSING & MEAL**  
The employer will provide housing during the employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

**DEDUCTIONS**  
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by law.

**INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE**  
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. The amount of transportation payment or reimbursement will be equal to the most economical and reasonable common carrier for the distances involved, provided that the amount for daily subsistence will be at least \$12.26 per day during travel to a maximum of \$51.00 per day with receipts.

**DAILY TRANSPORTATION**  
The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

**FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT**  
Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

**PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT**  
The Employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

**SAFETY EQUIPMENT**  
Employees are required to wear protective equipment i.e. safety hat, safety shoes, goggles, or other garments or equipment at all times during the work hours at the construction site. Employees are also required to follow all safety regulations.

**RECRUITMENT INFORMATION**  
Please visit Imperial Pacific Recruitment office located at Vecstor Office #6, Capitol Hill, Saipan or contact our recruitment team at 670-237-9901.

**SWA CONTACT INFORMATION**  
Please inquire about the job opportunity or send applications and/or resumes, indicating availability, to CNMI Department of Labor at Building #1356 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 or visit their website at www.marianaslabor.net.

### FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

**COMPANY:** IMPERIAL PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC  
**JOB TITLE:** Plumber  
**NUMBER OF OPENING:** 500  
**WAGES/SALARY:** \$7.35 per hour / Overtime Rate: \$11.03 per hour

**EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION**  
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2019 and ending on January 30, 2020.

**JOB LOCATION**  
Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

**JOB DUTIES**

- Assemble pipe sections, tubing, or fittings, using couplings, clamps, screws, bolts, cement, plastic solvent, caulking, or soldering, brazing, or welding equipment.
- Install pipe assemblies, fittings, valves, appliances such as dishwashers or water heaters, or fixtures such as sinks or toilets, using hand or power tools.
- Keep records of work assignments.
- Fill pipes or plumbing fixtures with water or air and observe pressure gauges to detect and locate leaks. Direct helpers engaged in pipe cutting, preassembly, or installation of plumbing systems or components.
- Maintain or repair plumbing by replacing defective washers, replacing or mending broken pipes, or opening clogged drains. Locate and mark the position of pipe installations, connections, passage holes, or fixtures in structures, using measuring instruments such as rulers or levels.
- Measure, cut, thread, or bend pipe to required angle, using hand or power tools or machines, such as pipe cutters, pipe-threading machines, or pipe-bending machines.
- Review blueprints, building codes, or specifications to determine work details or procedures.
- Anchor steel supports from ceiling joists to hold pipes in place.
- Estimate time, material, or labor costs for use in project plans.
- Install underground storm, sanitary, or water piping systems, extending piping as needed to connect fixtures and plumbing.
- Inspect structures to assess material or equipment needs, to establish the sequence of pipe installations, or to plan installation around obstructions, such as electrical wiring.
- Install green plumbing equipment, such as faucet flow restrictors, dual-flush or pressure-assisted flush toilets, or tankless hot water heaters.
- Cut openings in structures to accommodate pipes or pipe fittings, using hand or power tools.
- Weld small pipes or special piping, using specialized techniques, equipment, or materials, such as computer-assisted welding or microchip fabrication.
- Statement Install alternative water sources, such as rainwater harvesting systems or graywater reuse systems.
- , Recommend energy or water saving products, such as low-flow faucets or shower heads, water-saving toilets, or high-efficiency hot water heaters. Green Task Statement Form

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**  
24 months of on-the-job experience as a Plumber is a minimum requirement for this position.

**WORK HOURS**  
Employees hired under this announcement will work on full time employment thirty-five (35) hours per week. Each day is 7 working hours with pay and 1 hour duty break with no pay. Each week will has 2 full rest day. There will be a rotating three (3) shifts per day. Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three (3) shifts on an ongoing basis until the project is complete. Standard salary per hour is \$7.35 and the time worked over forty (40) hours per week will be compensated at an overtime rate of \$11.03.

**JOB LOCATION**  
Work will be performed at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan worksite.

**SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY**  
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

**FREQUENCY OF PAY**  
Workers will be paid on bi-weekly basis by check.

**HOUSING & MEAL**  
The employer will provide housing during the employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

**DEDUCTIONS**  
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by law.

**INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE**  
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. The amount of transportation payment or reimbursement will be equal to the most economical and reasonable common carrier for the distances involved, provided that the amount for daily subsistence will be at least \$12.26 per day during travel to a maximum of \$51.00 per day with receipts.

**DAILY TRANSPORTATION**  
The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

**FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT**  
Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

**PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT**  
The Employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

**SAFETY EQUIPMENT**  
Employees are required to wear protective equipment i.e. safety hat, safety shoes, goggles, or other garments or equipment at all times during the work hours at the construction site. Employees are also required to follow all safety regulations.

**RECRUITMENT INFORMATION**  
Please visit Imperial Pacific Recruitment office located at Vecstor Office #6, Capitol Hill, Saipan or contact our recruitment team at 670-237-9901.

**SWA CONTACT INFORMATION**  
Please inquire about the job opportunity or send applications and/or resumes, indicating availability, to CNMI Department of Labor at Building #1356 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 or visit their website at www.marianaslabor.net.

### FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

**COMPANY:** IMPERIAL PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC  
**JOB TITLE:** Riveter  
**NUMBER OF OPENING:** 40  
**WAGES/SALARY:** \$14.55 per hour / Overtime Rate: \$21.83 per hour

**EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION**  
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2019 and ending on January 30, 2020.

**JOB LOCATION**  
Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

**JOB DUTIES**

- Rivets structural members, assemblies, and parts of structures, using portable riveting, dimpling, and drilling machines and hand tools.
- Reads work orders, blueprints, and operation sheets to determine sequence of operations and type size and hole pattern of rivets.
- Removes temporary bolts or fasteners and inserts rivets in pre-drilled holes.
- Places drive head of rivet gun against rivet shank and pulls trigger to actuate hammer that spreads rivet, or spreads rivet, using rivet set and hammer.
- Rivets together adjoining edges of structural components and assemblies.
- Places two dies of rivet squeezer over head and shank of rivet, and presses trigger to activate dies that flatten shank of rivet.
- Drills and reams rivet holes and drills out defective rivets. Forms dimples around rivet holes, using portable dimpling gun or stationary dimpling machine.
- May align and assemble parts to be riveted, using jigs, holding fixtures, pins, clamps, and fasteners.
- May buck rivets

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**  
12 months of on-the-job experience as a Riveter is a minimum requirement for this position.

**WORK HOURS**  
Employees hired under this announcement will work on full time employment thirty-five (35) hours per week. Each day is 7 working hours with pay and 1 hour duty break with no pay. Each week will has 2 full rest day. There will be a rotating three (3) shifts per day. Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three (3) shifts on an ongoing basis until the project is complete. Standard salary per hour is \$14.55 and the time worked over forty (40) hours per week will be compensated at an overtime rate of \$21.83.

**JOB LOCATION**  
Work will be performed at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan worksite.

**SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY**  
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

**FREQUENCY OF PAY**  
Workers will be paid on bi-weekly basis by check.

**HOUSING & MEAL**  
The employer will provide housing during the employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

**DEDUCTIONS**  
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by law.

**INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE**  
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. The amount of transportation payment or reimbursement will be equal to the most economical and reasonable common carrier for the distances involved, provided that the amount for daily subsistence will be at least \$12.26 per day during travel to a maximum of \$51.00 per day with receipts.

**DAILY TRANSPORTATION**  
The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

**FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT**  
Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

**PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT**  
The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

**SAFETY EQUIPMENT**  
Employees are required to wear protective equipment i.e. safety hat, safety shoes, goggles, or other garments or equipment at all times during the work hours at the construction site. Employees are also required to follow all safety regulations.

**RECRUITMENT INFORMATION**  
Please visit Imperial Pacific Recruitment office located at Vecstor Office #6, Capitol Hill, Saipan or contact our recruitment team at 670-237-9901.

**SWA CONTACT INFORMATION**  
Please inquire about the job opportunity or send applications and/or resumes, indicating availability, to CNMI Department of Labor at Building #1356 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 or visit their website at www.marianaslabor.net.



WORLD BRIEFS

**Aid ship with 311 migrants ignored by Italy, heads to Spain**  
**BARCELONA, Spain** (AP)—Spain’s Foreign Ministry gave permission Saturday to an aid boat carrying 311 rescued migrants to set course for Spain after Italy and other Mediterranean countries did not answer its request to dock. The boat belonging to the Spanish aid group Proactiva Open Arms saved 313 migrants Friday in waters near Libya. A baby and its mother were then evacuated from the boat. Spain’s Foreign Ministry said Malta denied the aid boat

permission to dock and the boat’s calls to Italy, France, Tunisia and Libya have gone unanswered. The aid group said it now has permission to enter the Spanish port of Algeciras. On its Twitter account, Proactiva said “it will be many and difficult days sailing, but we have a safe port.” In June, Italy and Malta denied entrance to another aid ship belonging to SOS Mediterranee Sea and Doctors Without Borders that was carrying over 600 rescued migrants. Spain granted it entry to end its weeklong saga at sea, as Spain’s new

center-left government made the humane treatment of migrants one of its first policy decisions in contrast with the hard-line taken by Italy’s populist leaders.

**Palestinian president to dissolve parliament, Hamas irate**  
**RAMALLAH, West Bank** (AP)—Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas pledged on Saturday to implement a court ruling and dissolve the parliament controlled by his rival Hamas movement, triggering warnings of chaos from the Islamic militant group. Abbas’

announcement is the latest in a series of bitter splits and rivalries between his Fatah party and Hamas, which began in 2007 when Hamas routed his forces and took over Gaza, keeping his rule limited to parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Since then, the Palestinian Legislative Council, where Hamas holds a majority after a 2006 landslide victory against Fatah, has been largely disabled. If done, breaking up the legislature would remain symbolic, maintaining the already entrenched political divide between Gaza and the West Bank.

**Somalia blast kills at least 16 near presidential palace**  
**NAIROBI, Kenya** (AP)—An explosives-packed vehicle detonated at a military checkpoint near Somalia’s presidential palace, killing at least 16 people and wounding more than 20 others, police said. The al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab extremist group, which often targets Mogadishu, claimed responsibility for the attack. Those killed include three staffers from the London-based Universal TV station, including prominent journalist Awil Dahir Salad, said po-

lice Capt. Mohamed Hussein, who gave the toll of dead and wounded. The bomber targeted the checkpoint near the rear entrance of the heavily fortified palace, Hussein said. A lawmaker and a deputy mayor of Mogadishu were among those wounded, he said. Soldiers also were among the dead, Col. Ahmed Mohamud said. The blast and a second, smaller one nearby appeared to target those heading to work on what was a business day in the Horn of Africa nation. A plume of smoke rose over the capital as ambulances rushed to the scene.

## FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

**COMPANY:** IMPERIAL PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC  
**JOB TITLE:** Construction Carpenter  
**NUMBER OF OPENING:** 450  
**WAGES/SALARY:** \$7.25 per hour / Overtime Rate: \$10.88 per hour

**EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION**  
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2019 and ending on January 30, 2020.

**JOB LOCATION**  
Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

**JOB DUTIES**

- Follow established safety rules and regulations and maintain a safe and clean environment.
- Study specifications in blueprints, sketches, or building plans to prepare project layout and determine dimensions and materials required.
- Measure and mark cutting lines on materials, using a ruler, pencil, chalk, and marking gauge.
- Shape or cut materials to specified measurements, using hand tools, machines, or power saws.
- Install structures or fixtures, such as windows, frames, floorings, trim, or hardware, using carpenters' hand or power tools.
- Verify trueness of structure, using plumb bob and level. Select and order lumber or other required materials.
- Arrange for subcontractors to deal with special areas, such as heating or electrical wiring work.
- Maintain records, document actions, and present written progress reports.
- Build or repair cabinets, doors, frameworks, floors, or other wooden fixtures used in buildings, using woodworking machines, carpenter's hand tools, or power tools.
- Erect scaffolding or ladders for assembling structures above ground level. Inspect ceiling or floor tile, wall coverings, siding, glass, or woodwork to detect broken or damaged structures.
- Assemble and fasten materials to make frameworks or props, using hand tools and wood screws, nails, dowel pins, or glue.
- Remove damaged or defective parts or sections of structures and repair or replace, using hand tools. Finish surfaces of woodwork or wallboard in houses or buildings, using paint, hand tools, or paneling. Apply shock-absorbing, sound-deadening, or decorative paneling to ceilings or walls.
- Cover subfloors with building paper to keep out moisture and lay hardwood, parquet, or wood-strip-block floors by nailing floors to subfloor or cementing them to mastic or asphalt base.
- Fill cracks or other defects in plaster or plasterboard and sand patch, using patching plaster, trowel, and sanding tool.
- Perform minor plumbing, welding, or concrete mixing work.
- Prepare cost estimates for clients or employers.
- Construct forms or chutes for pouring concrete. Work with or remove hazardous material.

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**  
12 months of on-the-job experience as a Construction Carpenter is a minimum requirement for this position.

**WORK HOURS**  
Employees hired under this announcement will work on full time employment thirty-five (35) hours per week. Each day is 7 working hours with pay and 1 hour duty break with no pay. Each week will have 2 full rest day. There will be a rotating three (3) shifts per day. Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three (3) shifts on an ongoing basis until the project is complete. Standard salary per hour is \$7.25 and the time worked over forty (40) hours per week will be compensated at an overtime rate of \$10.88.

**JOB LOCATION**  
Work will be performed at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan worksite.

**SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY**  
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

**FREQUENCY OF PAY**  
Workers will be paid on bi-weekly basis by check.

**HOUSING & MEAL**  
The employer will provide housing during the employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

**DEDUCTIONS**  
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by law.

**INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE**  
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. The amount of transportation payment or reimbursement will be equal to the most economical and reasonable common carrier for the distances involved, provided that the amount for daily subsistence will be at least \$12.26 per day during travel to a maximum of \$51.00 per day with receipts.

**DAILY TRANSPORTATION**  
The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

**FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT**  
Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

**PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT**  
The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

**SAFETY EQUIPMENT**  
Employees are required to wear protective equipment i.e. safety hat, safety shoes, goggles, or other garments or equipment at all times during the work hours at the construction site. Employees are also required to follow all safety regulations.

**RECRUITMENT INFORMATION**  
Please visit Imperial Pacific Recruitment office located at Vescor Office #6, Capitol Hill, Saipan or contact our recruitment team at 670-237-9901.

**SWA CONTACT INFORMATION**  
Please inquire about the job opportunity or send applications and/or resumes, indicating availability, to CNMI Department of Labor at Building #1356 Medinilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 or visit their website at www.marianaslabor.net.

## FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

**COMPANY:** IMPERIAL PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC  
**JOB TITLE:** Construction Laborer  
**NUMBER OF OPENING:** 60  
**WAGES/SALARY:** \$7.60 per hour / Overtime Rate: \$11.40 per hour

**EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION**  
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2019 and ending on January 30, 2020.

**JOB LOCATION**  
Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

**JOB DUTIES**

- Control traffic passing near, in, or around work zones.
- Clean or prepare construction sites to eliminate possible hazards.
- Signal equipment operators to facilitate alignment, movement, or adjustment of machinery, equipment, or materials. Read plans, instructions, or specifications to determine work activities.
- Load, unload, or identify building materials, machinery, or tools, distributing them to the appropriate locations, according to project plans or specifications.
- Measure, mark, or record openings or distances to layout areas where construction work will be performed.
- Dig ditches or trenches, backfill excavations, or compact and level earth to grade specifications, using picks, shovels, pneumatic tampers, or rakes.
- Mix, pour, or spread concrete, using portable cement mixers.
- Tend pumps, compressors, or generators to provide power for tools, machinery, or equipment or to heat or move materials, such as asphalt.
- Erect or dismantle scaffolding, shoring, braces, traffic barricades, ramps, or other temporary structures.
- Provide assistance to craft workers, such as carpenters, plasterers, or masons.
- Lubricate, clean, or repair machinery, equipment, or tools. Position or dismantle forms for pouring concrete, using saws, hammers, nails, or bolts.
- Smooth or finish freshly poured cement or concrete, using floats, trowels, screeds, or powered cement finishing tools.
- Operate jackhammers or drills to break up concrete or pavement.
- Install sewer, water, or storm drain pipes, using pipe-laying machinery or laser guidance equipment.
- Operate or maintain air monitoring or other sampling devices in confined or hazardous environments.
- Mix ingredients to create compounds for covering or cleaning surfaces.
- Grind, scrape, sand, or polish surfaces, such as concrete, marble, terrazzo, or wood flooring, using abrasive tools or machines.
- Position, join, align, or seal structural components, such as concrete wall sections or pipes.
- Tend machines that pump concrete, grout, cement, sand, plaster, or stucco through spray guns for application to ceilings or walls. Spray materials, such as water, sand, steam, vinyl, paint, or stucco, through hoses to clean, coat, or seal surfaces.
- Apply caulking compounds by hand or caulking guns to protect against entry of water or air.
- Mop, brush, or spread paints, cleaning solutions, or other compounds over surfaces to clean them or to provide protection.
- Perform site activities required of green certified construction practices, such as implementing waste management procedures, identifying materials for reuse, or installing erosion or sedimentation control mechanisms.
- Apply weather-stripping to reduce energy loss.

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**  
12 months of on-the-job experience as a Construction Laborer is a minimum requirement for this position.

**WORK HOURS**  
Employees hired under this announcement will work on full time employment thirty-five (35) hours per week. Each day is 7 working hours with pay and 1 hour duty break with no pay. Each week will have 2 full rest day. There will be a rotating three (3) shifts per day. Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three (3) shifts on an ongoing basis until the project is complete. Standard salary per hour is \$7.60 and the time worked over forty (40) hours per week will be compensated at an overtime rate of \$11.40.

**JOB LOCATION**  
Work will be performed at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan worksite.

**SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY**  
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

**FREQUENCY OF PAY**  
Workers will be paid on bi-weekly basis by check.

**HOUSING & MEAL**  
The employer will provide housing during the employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

**DEDUCTIONS**  
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by law.

**INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE**  
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. The amount of transportation payment or reimbursement will be equal to the most economical and reasonable common carrier for the distances involved, provided that the amount for daily subsistence will be at least \$12.26 per day during travel to a maximum of \$51.00 per day with receipts.

**DAILY TRANSPORTATION**  
The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

**FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT**  
Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

**PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT**  
The Employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

**SAFETY EQUIPMENT**  
Employees are required to wear protective equipment i.e. safety hat, safety shoes, goggles, or other garments or equipment at all times during the work hours at the construction site. Employees are also required to follow all safety regulations.

**RECRUITMENT INFORMATION**  
Please visit Imperial Pacific Recruitment office located at Vescor Office #6, Capitol Hill, Saipan or contact our recruitment team at 670-237-9901.

**SWA CONTACT INFORMATION**  
Please inquire about the job opportunity or send applications and/or resumes, indicating availability, to CNMI Department of Labor at Building #1356 Medinilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 or visit their website at www.marianaslabor.net.

## FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

**COMPANY:** IMPERIAL PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC  
**JOB TITLE:** Mason  
**NUMBER OF OPENING:** 600  
**WAGES/SALARY:** \$7.25 per hour / Overtime Rate: \$10.88 per hour

**EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION**  
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2019 and ending on January 30, 2020.

**JOB LOCATION**  
Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

**JOB DUTIES**

- Check the forms that hold the concrete to see that they are properly constructed.
- Set the forms that hold concrete to the desired pitch and depth, and align them.
- Spread, level, and smooth concrete, using rake, shovel, hand or power trowel, hand or power screed, and float.
- Monitor how the wind, heat, or cold affect the curing of the concrete throughout the entire process.
- Mold expansion joints and edges, using edging tools, jointers, and straightedge.
- Signal truck driver to position truck to facilitate pouring concrete, and move chute to direct concrete on forms.
- Direct the casting of the concrete and supervise laborers who use shovels or special tools to spread it. Produce rough concrete surface, using broom.
- Apply hardening and sealing compounds to cure surface of concrete, and waterproof or restore surface. Operate power vibrator to compact concrete. Install anchor bolts, steel plates, door sills and other fixtures in freshly poured concrete or pattern or stamp the surface to provide a decorative finish.
- Wet surface to prepare for bonding, fill holes and cracks with grout or slurry, and smooth, using trowel. Waterproof or restore concrete surfaces, using appropriate compounds. Mix cement, sand, and water to produce concrete, grout, or slurry, using hoe, trowel, tamper, scraper, or concrete-mixing machine.
- Chip, scrape, and grind high spots, ridges, and rough projections to finish concrete, using pneumatic chisels, power grinders, or hand tools.
- Cut out damaged areas, drill holes for reinforcing rods, and position reinforcing rods to repair concrete, using power saw and drill.
- Wet concrete surface, and rub with stone to smooth surface and obtain specified finish.
- Clean chipped area, using wire brush, and feel and observe surface to determine if it is rough or uneven. Build wooden molds, and clamp molds around area to be repaired, using hand tools.
- Sprinkle colored marble or stone chips, powdered steel, or coloring powder over surface to produce prescribed finish.
- Fabricate concrete beams, columns, and panels. Polish surface, using polishing or surfacing machine.
- Cut metal division strips, and press them into terrazzo base so that top edges form desired design or pattern.
- Push roller over surface to embed chips in surface.

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**  
12 months of on-the-job experience as a Mason is a minimum requirement for this position.

**WORK HOURS**  
Employees hired under this announcement will work on full time employment thirty-five (35) hours per week. Each day is 7 working hours with pay and 1 hour duty break with no pay. Each week will have 2 full rest day. There will be a rotating three (3) shifts per day. Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three (3) shifts on an ongoing basis until the project is complete. Standard salary per hour is \$7.35 and the time worked over forty (40) hours per week will be compensated at an overtime rate of \$11.03.

**JOB LOCATION**  
Work will be performed at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan worksite.

**SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY**  
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

**FREQUENCY OF PAY**  
Workers will be paid on bi-weekly basis by check.

**HOUSING & MEAL**  
The employer will provide housing during the employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

**DEDUCTIONS**  
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by law.

**INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE**  
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. The amount of transportation payment or reimbursement will be equal to the most economical and reasonable common carrier for the distances involved, provided that the amount for daily subsistence will be at least \$12.26 per day during travel to a maximum of \$51.00 per day with receipts.

**DAILY TRANSPORTATION**  
The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

**FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT**  
Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

**PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT**  
The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

**SAFETY EQUIPMENT**  
Employees are required to wear protective equipment i.e. safety hat, safety shoes, goggles, or other garments or equipment at all times during the work hours at the construction site. Employees are also required to follow all safety regulations.

**RECRUITMENT INFORMATION**  
Please visit Imperial Pacific Recruitment office located at Vescor Office #6, Capitol Hill, Saipan or contact our recruitment team at 670-237-9901.

**SWA CONTACT INFORMATION**  
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# Health & Wellness

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Tan Siu Lin  
Foundation

## Here's what it takes to avoid gaining weight this holiday season



By KAREN KAPLAN  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

**E**ggnog. Gingerbread houses. Peppermint bark. All those delightful cookies. There's no doubt it's the most wonderful time of the year—for putting on a few extra pounds.

Studies have found that most of our annual weight gain occurs during the holiday season, when adults typically bulk up by about 1 to 2 pounds. It may not sound like much, but over the course of a decade it adds up to

10 to 20 pounds—enough to fuel the obesity epidemic, researchers say.

Who are these busybodies who seem intent on spoiling our festivities? They are from the Institute of Applied Health Research at the University of Birmingham in England, and they would like to help us avoid this fattening fate.

“Christmas is likely to tax even the most experienced weight controller,” they explained with considerable sympathy in a report published Monday in the BMJ (formerly known as the British Medical Journal).

That's why they launched the Win-

ter Weight Watch study. Instead of asking people to follow restrictive diets or log extra hours at the gym, they wanted to see if they could minimize the impact of the holiday season by harnessing the power of guilt.

Their hypothesis was that if people knew the calorie content of popular foods and drinks—and the amount of exercise it would take to burn off these treats—they would think twice before putting an extra canape on their plate or refilling their mug of mulled cider. Even better, if people checked their weight regularly, they could see when they were starting to go off the rails and make adjustments before things got out of hand.

To test their hypothesis, the researchers recruited 272 adults with a body mass index of at least 20. (A BMI between 20 and 24.9 is considered a “normal” weight, 25 to 29.9 is overweight and 30 and above is obese.) Most of the volunteers were women, most were white, and the average age of the entire group was just shy of 44.

Half of the study subjects were randomly assigned to try the three-pronged prevention program:

★ They were encouraged to weigh themselves at least twice a week and pay attention to their weight trajectory.

★ They received information about a British weight-management program called “Ten Top Tips,”

which emphasizes healthy habits like eating slowly, choosing low-fat foods, being mindful of portion sizes and walking every day. The tips were modified slightly to address holiday-season temptations.

★ They got handouts showing how much exercise they would need to get to work off particular treats—21 minutes of running to burn the calories contained in one mince pie, for instance, or 32 minutes of walking to compensate for a small glass of mulled wine.

The other half of the study subjects received a leaflet about the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle.

The volunteers were weighed, measured and tested in November or early December, before holiday eating could begin in earnest. During these appointments, study participants in the prevention program were given a target “maximum weight,” which was about 1 pound above their baseline weight.

Then they were sent out to contend with holiday enticements to the best of their abilities.

Although the program wasn't designed to promote weight loss, the volunteers who tested it lost an average of nearly 0.3 pounds by the time they were weighed again in January or February, the researchers found. Meanwhile, the volunteers in the control group gained a little more than 0.8 pounds, on average.

After adjusting for the volunteers'

baseline weight and other factors, the researchers determined that those who tested the program gained less weight than those who only got the rudimentary health information. The average difference between the two groups was a little more than 1 pound.

Most likely, that's because the program worked as intended. The volunteers assigned to follow it were more likely than those who weren't to weigh themselves at least twice a week, the researchers reported. Those in the program also got higher scores on a test of cognitive restraint, a skill that could have helped them resist temptation.

The researchers acknowledged that the difference in weight gain wasn't huge, but said that even a 1 pound difference can have important consequences for long-term health because “the relation between weight and mortality is linear and any weight gain prevented will have a positive impact on health outcomes.”

Another study with a longer follow-up period would be needed to see whether the program's apparent benefits would persist over time, as volunteers were forced to confront Valentine's Day and Easter treats—let alone whether it would be effective year-round, the researchers wrote.

In the meantime, knowing that we're not entirely powerless against the allure of rum balls and eggnog is a good place to start.

## Planning lets you fit fitness into your travels

By LISA LIDDANE  
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Traveling—whether it's for a vacation or business—can throw off a workout regimen. If you leave fitness on the road to chance, you increase your chances of dropping it from your schedule. At the same time, you can't be so worried about it that you end up stressed about missing workouts. But with some planning, you can continue to maintain fitness away from home.

Here are tips for fitting fitness into your travel plans:

■ **Check the options at your destination.** Find out if the hotel has a health club, its hours and fees. If it

doesn't have a fitness center, find out where the nearest one is located. Get the phone number and address from the concierge, call the fitness center to get details on equipment, hours of operation, classes and directions. You can do this, too, if you are staying at a friend or relative's home.

■ **Try a new instructor.** You might be surprised at how fun it can be to take a class under an instructor in another city. I check out indoor group cycling classes when I travel to metropolitan areas. You might be able to find yoga or step classes as well as local sports groups.

■ **Consider the outdoors.** How about seeing sights by walking, hiking or riding a rented bike? Walking

is a wonderful way to combine exploring a new place with maintaining fitness. It's my favorite travel workout because it enables me to take in the local sights, smells and sounds. Wear supportive and comfortable shoes. Ask the hotel concierge for suggestions.

When renting bikes, rent helmets as well. Ask the local bike shop about the best and safest routes and for descriptions of the terrain (flat or hilly).

■ **Be prepared to do the unusual.** Bring a pair of cross-training shoes and workout clothes, no matter where you go. While taking care of my father at a hospital for his surgery last year, my only fitness option was

to walk up and down five flights of stairs in the wee hours of the morning. If you're staying at a hotel without a fitness center or can't find a nearby health club, pack a portable music player and headset and walk up and down the hotel stairs.

■ **Bring elastic exercise bands.** Learn basic exercises by asking for help from a body-sculpting group exercise instructor or a personal trainer before you leave town. Practice so you can do the exercises proficiently while traveling. When you're back home, the bands will come in handy when you can't make it to a health club.

■ **Bring exercise videotapes if your hotel room has a VCR.**

■ **Schedule your workout for the morning if you're on business.**

Unexpected business meetings in the afternoons and evenings can get in the way of a workout program, so it's best to exercise in the morning.

■ **Go dancing at a local club.** It's an easy way to burn calories and check out the local scene.

■ **Use the opportunity to try something new.** Swim or use a kickboard. Play tennis. Learn yoga or kickboxing. Remember to have fun.

*Lisa Liddane is a health and fitness writer for The Orange County Register. Write to her at the Register, P.O. Box 11626, Santa Ana, Calif. 92711 or send e-mail to lliddane(AT)ocregister.com.*



# Life & Style

## AP-NORC poll: Christmas carols favored over Billboard hits

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas Is You" is the highest-charting Billboard Hot 100 holiday hit in 60 years, but Americans still prefer hearing carols such as "Silent Night" and "Jingle Bells," a new poll shows.

With Christmas next week, 12 percent of Americans named "Silent Night" as their favorite holiday song followed by "Jingle Bells" at

8 percent, according to a poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. The open-ended question showed that "It's a Wonderful Life" is a fan favorite among holiday films, followed closely by a mix of recent comedies and classics.

Nine percent of respondents listed the 1946 Frank Capra classic "It's a Wonderful Life" as their favorite film. Jimmy Stewart plays a conscientious family man

who faces a seemingly insurmountable debt and attempts to end his life, but is stopped by a guardian angel on Christmas Eve.

"It's a story of redemption," said Michael Germana, 65, who called the film his favorite. The California native is also among the 21 percent of adults 60 and older who choose "Silent Night," which was first performed 200 years ago.

"It's a song of inclusion," Germana said. "There's

no strife."

Americans under 30 are more likely than those older to name "Jingle Bells" (12 percent) and Carey's "All I Want for Christmas Is You" (7 percent) as their favorite.

Carey's song only trails the 1958 song "The Chipmunk Song" by David Seville as the highest-charting hit on Billboard. Other popular songs on Billboard charts include Kenny G's "Auld Lang Syne" and "This One's for the Children" by New

Kids on the Block.

"All I Want for Christmas Is You" was named by 3 percent of adults overall, while "Baby It's Cold

Outside," which has drawn criticism in the #MeToo era and led some stations to stop playing it, was named by 5 percent.

## For Saoirse Ronan, 'Queen of Scots' role gave room to grow

NEW YORK (AP)—Saoirse Ronan says she was "more than ready" to make the transition on film, and in real life, from young girl to commanding woman. Her new role in "Mary Queen of Scots," gave her the opportunity to do both.

Ronan, who is Irish, says she was not only excited to play Mary Stuart, a Celtic woman who ruled Scotland in the 16th century, but also to take on such a meaty part.

Nominated for Oscars for roles in "Atonement," "Brooklyn" and last year's awards season favorite, "Lady Bird," Ronan, 24, has often played girls who are still finding their way in the world. But "Mary Queen of Scots" provided the transition to full womanhood

as her character falls in love, becomes a mother, and rides a horse into battle.

"Playing Mary offered me so much as an actor. It's the first time that I've played someone who really comes into their womanhood and is very sort of settled and comfortable in that stage of their

life," Ronan says. "Doing the labor scene especially, it was just a really, really empowering scene ... and I think just getting to play someone who can, you know scream and be sweaty, and you know enjoy sex and go onto the battlefield and do all of these things was really liberating for me."

Her character also faces betrayal from both family and political factions who didn't always respect a woman in power. In the film, Scots who wanted Queen Mary to lose her position fabricated rumors to sway the public against her. The negative rhetoric may resonate with modern audiences.

## Hold up, Beyonce did not release new music

NEW YORK (AP)—There's no more juice in Beyonce's lemonade jar: The singer did not release new music though two albums featuring old Beyonce songs hit streaming services Thursday.

Under the name Queen Carter, the albums "Have Your Way" and "Back Up, Rewind" appeared on Spotify and Apple Music, featuring demos, previously released songs and unreleased tracks by Beyonce. Hours later, they were removed.

The 10-track "Have Your Way" included songs like "After All Is Said and Done," Beyonce's duet with Marc Nelson from the "Best Man" soundtrack, released in 1999; "Hollywood," a song with Jay-Z from his 2006 album, "Kingdom Come"; and "Hey Goldmember" from the soundtrack for 2002's "Austin Powers in Goldmember," which starred

Beyonce. It also featured "Crazy Feelings," the singer's collaboration with Missy El-

liott from the rapper's sophomore album, 1999's "Da Real World"; and "Fever," a cover of the '50's hit used in an ad for Beyonce's perfume and for the soundtrack for "The Fighting Temptations," another film Beyonce appeared in.

"Back Up, Rewind," featured 11 tracks including "Keep Giving Your Love to Me," from the "Bad Boys II" soundtrack, released in 2003, and "What It's Gonna Be," a Beyonce bonus track from 2003.

The stand-alone song, "Control," also appeared on streaming services.



Ronan



Beyonce



### STATUE CLEANUP

In this Dec. 12, 2018 photo, objects conservators Marianne Schmeisser, left, and Corey Riley clean the base of the statue "Saul under the Influence of the Evil Spirit" at the North Carolina Museum of Art, in Raleigh, N.C. The museum bought the sculpture, carved in 1865 by American William Wetmore Story, from Rendcomb College, a private boarding school in England. The students would dress up Saul at Christmas as characters such as Santa Claus and Gandalf from "Lord of the Rings" so the conservators are finding things such as black nail paint and glitter in the crevices of the clothing on the statue.

AP

## Email mix-up causes cousin to send mistaken invitation

DEAR ABBY: I recently received an online invitation to a New Year's Eve party at the home of a dear cousin. Having not heard from her in a while, I decided to call her to express our delight at having been invited and let her know we might be able to come. (They live 350 miles away, but we plan to be in their town earlier that week and could potentially stay a few days longer and go to the party.)

Well, when I called, she told me that our having been included on the e-vite was a mistake! She said there must have been a mix-up because my email address is similar to a friend of hers who is invited.

Although she then said we were welcome to come, we declined saying, "Thank you for your flexibility given the awkward circumstance. Forgive us, but I think we'll stick to our original plan to come back north around Dec. 28."

Could this have been handled better? It has put a strain on an otherwise lovely relationship.

EMBARRASSED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR EMBARRASSED: Your dear cousin was clearly caught flat-footed by your phone call, but she should not have blurted out that your invitation was a mistake, although she did try to clean it up by telling you you were welcome to come.

I don't blame you for telling her you would stick to your original plan because I doubt you would have felt comfort-

able had you chosen to attend. The way to handle this going forward would be to make a New Year's resolution to forgive her for the breach of etiquette, not allow it to create a rift in your relationship and let it go.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I work at a school. There's this woman here I would like to know. She's 21; I'm 24. I do maintenance and janitorial work. She's a professional. I wrote her a note wishing her and her family well for the holidays. She texted me once, thanking me for the note and wishing me happy holidays, too.

I want more communication. I'm not sure if she's nervous and doesn't know what to say. She seems like an incredible person, and I'd hate to pass up the opportunity to know her better. What's your take on this?

HER FUTURE FRIEND? IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR FRIEND: Because you both work at the same school there could be rules against fraternization or even sexual harassment that could put your job in jeopardy if you do what you have in mind, however innocent it may be. That's why I don't recommend it. Appreciate the opportunity to work with pleasant, wonderful, "incredible" people, but leave it at that.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am an estate planner who would like to say that folks who don't believe in writing thank-you letters have no idea how much they may have lost by not sending those little

## DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

notes of gratitude. I am talking about hundreds of thousands of dollars that have not gone to people who failed to pen a note and buy a stamp.

Many of my clients who are grandparents tell me they are leaving nothing to the "children" who never thanked them. They say the ingrates deserve what they'll be getting, which is nothing.

PATRICIA IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR PATRICIA: I'm printing your letter verbatim. A word to the wise, folks ... Happy holidays!

■■■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson **Garfield®**

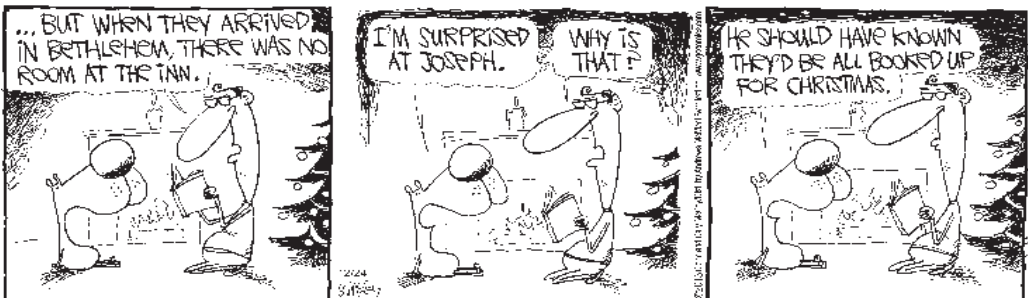
By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset **The Duplex**

By Glenn McCoy



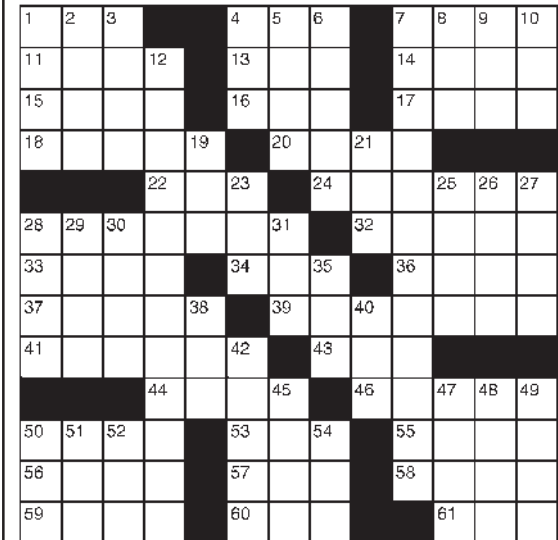
## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Favorite spots
  - 4 West of Hollywood
  - 7 Fixed look
  - 11 — about (roughly)
  - 13 Oahu or Maui (Abbr.)
  - 14 Bar
  - 15 Fictional Jane
  - 16 State VIP
  - 17 Catch sight of
  - 18 Hotel workers
  - 20 Lavish party
  - 22 Fawn's mom
  - 24 Recital piece
  - 28 Purplish hue
  - 32 Sean of "Rudy"
  - 33 October birthstone
  - 34 Rushmore face
  - 36 Crow's-nest cry
  - 37 Not hollow
  - 39 Eventually
- DOWN**
- 1 "The Raven," for one
  - 2 New Age singer
  - 3 Actress
  - 4 "Top Gun" target
  - 5 Starting
  - 6 Santa's helpers
  - 7 Traditional English folk song
  - 8 Small batteries
  - 9 Energy
  - 10 TV
  - 12 Apple variety
  - 19 Junior starter
  - 21 Ode title
  - 23 Greek H
  - 25 Slightly
  - 26 Turner or Fey
  - 27 Tennis champ
  - 28 Rolling stone's lack
  - 29 Each
  - 30 Big bash
  - 31 Sit-up targets
  - 35 A billion years
  - 38 Aachen article
  - 40 Ran into
  - 42 Hourglass fillers
  - 45 Taboo
  - 47 Pivot
  - 48 Send forth
  - 49 Carry
  - 50 Indent key
  - 51 High card
  - 52 The Browns, on scoreboards
  - 54 Letter sealer

Solution time: 21 mins.



Friday's answer 12-24



## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Ryan Seacrest, 44; Stephenie Meyer, 45; Ricky Martin, 47; Diedrich Bader, 52.

**Happy Birthday:** Revisit past hardships and you'll find the answers you are searching for. Change can manifest in many ways. If it's from the heart, it will not disappoint you. Trust in your ability to bring about improvements that will touch those you love. The key to getting what you want is to recognize what's important to you. Your numbers are 2, 13, 20, 24, 32, 39, 41.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Give from the heart, not from the wallet. Give thought to the changes you want to make and the goals you set for yourself moving forward. Speak openly, and make plans with someone you love. Don't limit what you can accomplish. ★★★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Don't get worked up or stressed out. Things don't have to be perfect. Kindness, consideration and letting things unfold naturally will put you at ease and make it easier for loved ones to touch your heart and bring you joy. ★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Don't say it if you don't mean it. A problem dealing with a peer, relative or friend should be handled with wisdom, patience and respect. Think before you speak, and hold your thoughts if they aren't kind. ★★★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Remember what's important. Let bygones be bygones. Make this a day to rejoice, not one to bring up the past. Focus on bringing joy to

those you love. Take pride in the way you look and how you treat others. ★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Enjoy festivities with people you care about, but don't be too quick to share your personal plans. Someone will let you down if you count on him or her to do something for you. Spend less and give more of yourself. ★★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Take a moment to say something nice to someone you love. It's a busy time of year, and often the ones we care about most are the ones neglected. Be thankful for what you have, practice moderation and avoid temptation. ★★★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Recognize what others do, and be thankful for any help you receive. Keep the peace, even if you don't agree with someone. It's best to take the high road, regardless of what others do or say. Pay attention to those in need. ★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Take time out to spend with someone you love or to do something that will show how much you care. Time spent with friends or family will bring you closer together. A gesture someone makes will impact your life. ★★★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Learn from your experiences. It's best not to overdo it if you want to make a good impression. Pace yourself to avoid being put in an awkward position. Keep your emotions under control, and be helpful, not a hindrance. ★★★

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** You'll be offered compliments that will encourage you to take on something you've never considered in the past. Live in the moment, and enjoy the people who make you feel good about your life and your future. ★★★★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Don't make promises you cannot keep. Talking big or sending the wrong impression will result in changes you may not like. Be direct and lay your cards on the table. Don't put your reputation on the line. ★★★★★

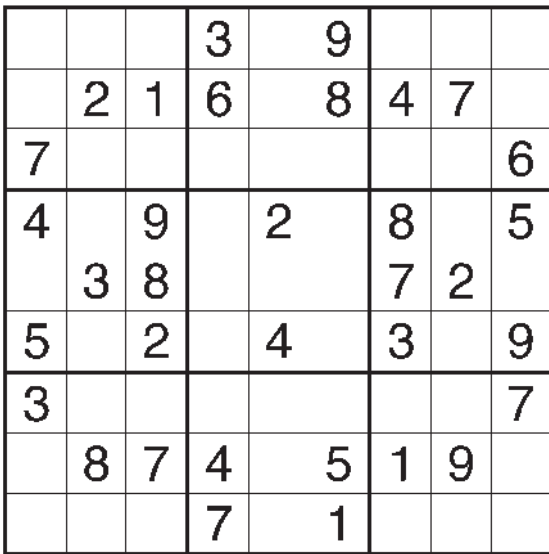
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Put greater emphasis on living within your means and using your ingenuity to come up with precious offerings that have meaning and will leave a good impression. Romance is in the stars and will enhance your personal life. ★★★★★

**Birthday Baby:** You are passionate, impressive and sensitive. You are impulsive and proactive.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit [Eugenialast.com](http://Eugenialast.com), or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

## SUDOKU

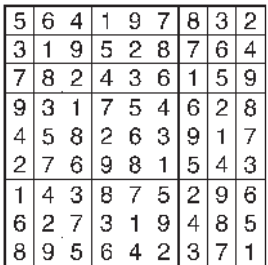
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★ 12/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer



## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THE THREE WISE MEN

Solution: 8 letters



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Angel, Baptism, Bethlehem, Bible, Birth, Bow, Camels, Cana, Caspar, Child, Christian, Christmastide, Church, Divine, East, Epiphany, Frankincense, Gifts, Gold, Guide, Holiday, Homage, Horse, January, Jesus, Jordan, Kings, Magi, Myrrh, Newborn, Oil, Praise, Prayer, Rise, Scene, Sermon, Shepherd, Sing, Star, Statues, Theophany, Unity, Visit, Wise Men

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/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**  
Corporate Director

**Robert Tenorio Torres**  
Attorney at Law  
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)  
P.O. Box 503758  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 234-7859  
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner Armando Villafuerte

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
FOR THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN  
MARIANA ISLANDS**

**IN THE MATTER OF  
THE ESTATE OF** **CIVIL ACTION  
NO. 16-0252**

**ANGELINA BORJA  
PEREDO aka  
ANGELINA P. RIOS,** **NOTICE OF  
HEARING**

**Deceased.** Date: January 31, 2018  
Time: 9:00 am  
Location: TBA  
Associate Judge Joseph  
N. Camacho

**TO ANNIE R. TOKYO AND MELINDA T.  
HOSSAIN, ALL HEIRS, AND INTERESTED PARTIES:**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that Administratrix Daisy Ramirez has filed a Petition for Decree of Final Distribution in the above-titled matter. The hearing on the petition is scheduled to be heard on the date and time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Dated this 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2018.

/s/ Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk of Court

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# Ravens top Chargers to bolster playoff chances



**CARSON, Calif.** (AP)—Just like that, the Baltimore Ravens have gone from a midseason swoon to the brink of their first playoff trip in four years.

The resurgent Ravens continued their late push with a 22-10 victory over the Los Angeles Chargers on Saturday behind Lamar Jackson's first 200-yard passing game and a stingy defense that held one of the NFL's top offenses under 200 yards for the first time since 2014.

Baltimore, which has won five of its past six with Jackson as the starter, dominated for most of the night to remain in possession of the last AFC wild card with one game remaining in the regular season. And the Ravens (9-6) would move into first place in the AFC North if Pittsburgh loses at New Orleans on Sunday.

"I'm proud of our guys. So many of them stepped up and made plays," coach John Harbaugh said. "Our guys were winning the 1-on-1 battles and our coverage was real good."

Baltimore got a win against a Los Angeles squad that had already clinched a playoff spot with wins in 10 of its last 11 games. The Chargers' loss, which drops them to 11-4, deals a big blow to their hopes of winning the AFC West. Kansas City can wrap up the division title and a first-round playoff bye with a win at Seattle on Sunday night.

"We couldn't get them off the field on defense. And we couldn't stay on the field on offense," coach Anthony Lynn said. "We got outplayed. We got outcoached. It's just that simple."

Jackson, the 32nd overall draft pick in April, completed 12 of 22 passes for 204 yards. He had come into the game averaging 146.2 yards in the previous five games.

"I'm used to playing on big stages and people doubting us. I try to prove them wrong," Jackson said. "We can play with anyone. That was a great team. We can fight and everyone sees it now."

Baltimore led 6-3 at half-time but the Chargers took the lead less than two minutes into the third quarter on Melvin Gordon's touchdown from a yard out. The Ravens got the ball to start the second half but Chargers rookie safety Derwin James forced Kenneth Dixon's fumble, which was recovered by Melvin Ingram at the Ravens 21 and returned 3 yards.

The Ravens quickly answered on the ensuing possession when tight end Mark



AP  
Baltimore Ravens tight end Mark Andrews runs for a touchdown past Los Angeles Chargers strong safety Jahleel Addae during the second half in an NFL football game Saturday, Dec. 22, 2018, in Carson, Calif.

Andrews split safeties Adrian Phillips and Jahleel Addae, taking Jackson's pass in stride and racing 67 yards for a TD.

"We turned it over so it was up to us to go back down and score," said Jackson, who also rushed for 39 yards. "It was play action. Mark got open and made a great catch."

The Ravens' defense, which came into the game as the top-ranked unit in the NFL, frustrated the Chargers most of the night. Philip Rivers—who went 23 of 37 for 181 yards—

was sacked four times, threw two interceptions and didn't have a touchdown pass for the first time this season.

Baltimore converted three Los Angeles turnovers into 10 points. The Ravens were up 16-10 with 2:40 remaining when Patrick Onwuasoro forced Antonio Gates to fumble and Tavon Young scooped it up and returned it 62 yards for a touchdown.

"I saw a couple opportunities where I could punch the ball out and that was one

of them. Once I punched it I didn't know if he was down or not," Onwuasoro said.

## Titans 25, Redskins 16

In Tennessee, the Tennessee Titans finally have a victory in a game where quarterback Marcus Mariota left injured, and Blaine Gabbert did much more than just win.

Gabbert kept the Titans' playoff hopes alive.

The veteran threw a 2-yard touchdown pass to MyCole Pruitt with 4:30 left and the

Titans rallied to beat the Washington Redskins for their fourth straight victory.

"I don't know," Gabbert said when asked if this was the biggest win of his eight-year career with four teams. "It was a fun win. We got a big game next week."

The victory was Tennessee's first in the seven career games that Mariota has left with an injury.

Coming off the bench for the third time this season, Gabbert threw for 101 yards

after the Redskins knocked Mariota out of the game late in the first half with a stinger. Gabbert hit Taywan Taylor for 35 yards to jump-start the winning drive, Derrick Henry ran four times for 33 yards, his last an 18-yarder to the 2. Gabbert then hit Pruitt at the back of the end zone.

The Titans (9-6) must beat Andrew Luck and the Indianapolis Colts and have either Baltimore or Pittsburgh lose once to earn the AFC's second wild-card spot for a second consecutive playoff berth.

"The only scenario that any of us are smart enough to worry about is us preparing to win and ultimately win, and that's all we can do right now," first-year Titans coach Mike Vrabel said.

Safety Kevin Byard intercepted Josh Johnson's pass on third-and-3 with 1:17 left. Then Malcolm Butler picked off a pass as time expired and ran 56 yards for an emphatic TD.

The Redskins (7-8) have lost five of six, and coach Jay Gruden said they couldn't ask for anything more from quarterback Josh Johnson, who came off his couch only weeks ago. Washington needs losses by Minnesota and Seattle to avoid being eliminated.

"I'm just very proud and sick for the way it ended for him tonight because he really just played (great), displayed great courage, leadership all in three weeks," Gruden said. "I hate for him to be judged on that one pass (Byard's interception), but overall just very, very proud of the way he came in here and led this team."

Mariota had thrown for 110 yards when sacked with 48 seconds left in the first half by defensive end Jonathan Allen. His right, throwing shoulder and arm were examined, then he walked to the locker room and was replaced by Gabbert.

The stinger is the same injury that knocked him out of Tennessee's loss Nov. 18 at Indianapolis. He also was knocked out of the season opener with an elbow injury that cost him a start. Vrabel said Mariota was still being evaluated after the game.

Byard said the Titans have full trust in Gabbert.

"It's really no panic on the sideline," Byard said.

Henry finished with 84 yards and a TD on 21 carries.

## Playoff picture: Chargers fumble, Browns out

Here's how the NFL playoff picture looks now that Week 16 has begun.

### American Football Conference

**Kansas City Chiefs (11-3):** AFC West leader. Chargers' loss to Baltimore means K.C. now win one away from home-field advantage. Sunday's visit to Seattle followed by Week 17 home game vs. Raiders.

**Houston Texans (10-4):** AFC South leader. Look who's suddenly in line for a week off in postseason. Will sew up division with one more win and would upgrade to a bye by combining victory with another New England loss.

**New England Patriots (9-5):** AFC East leader. They'll wrap up division for 10th straight time by beating Buffalo but need help from Houston or Kansas City to get back into bye mix.

**Pittsburgh Steelers (8-5-1):** AFC North leader. Lose to Saints, and they lose division lead to Baltimore.

**x — Los Angeles Chargers (11-3):** Wild card No. 1. Their shot at No. 1 seed pretty much gone after loss to Ravens. Bolts would need to win in Week 17 and hope Chiefs lose final two games.

**Baltimore Ravens (9-6):** Huge win moves them closer to a berth and, possibly, the AFC North lead. Week 6 win over Titans restores Ravens into wild-card hole. Tennessee's win earlier Saturday officially ended Cleveland Browns' faint hopes of qualifying.

**Tennessee Titans (9-6):** Don't qualify for postseason at this point.

**Indianapolis Colts (8-6):** Don't qualify for postseason at this point.

**Miami Dolphins (7-7):** Don't qualify for postseason

at this point.

### National Football Conference

**y — New Orleans Saints (12-2):** NFC South champions. Need one more win to claim home-field advantage. They'd also get it if Rams and Bears both lose.

**y — Los Angeles Rams (11-3):** NFC West champions. They're now 3-3 after that 8-0 start. But a win over Arizona combined with a Chicago loss would give L.A. a first-round bye.

**y — Chicago Bears (10-4):** NFC North champions. Division champs and playoff bound for first time since 2010. Bears' turnaround means for 15th time in past 16 NFL seasons, at least one team has gone from worst to first after a last-place finish in previous year. Earlier victory over Rams gives them decent shot of getting a bye. Win this

week would guarantee they can't finish with seed worse than No. 3.

**Dallas Cowboys (8-6):** NFC East leader. Division is theirs with one more win. A loss by the Eagles would also clinch it.

**Seattle Seahawks (8-6):** Wild card No. 1. Washington's loss Saturday means win-and-in scenario for Seahawks against Kansas City.

**Minnesota Vikings (7-6-1):** Wild card No. 2. If they topple Detroit, and Philly suffers a defeat, then Minnesota clinches a wild card.

**Philadelphia Eagles (7-7):** Don't qualify for postseason at this point.

**Washington Redskins (7-8):** Don't qualify for postseason at this point.

**Carolina Panthers (6-8):** Don't qualify for postseason at this point.

**x — clinched playoff berth**  
**y — clinched division**



# Wizards survive Suns in 3OT thriller



**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Bradley Beal and Kelly Oubre Jr. have matched up often in practice, and Oubre thought he knew what to expect in their reunion.

Just one of a few surprises on a wild Saturday night.

Beal had 40 points and his first career triple-double while squaring off against his former teammate, and the Washington Wizards beat the Phoenix Suns 149-146 in triple-overtime in the highest-scoring NBA game since 2008.

"I was telling him, I didn't know you were this hard to guard," Oubre said after his first game against Washington since he was traded to Phoenix last week. "I'm chasing you around all these screens, I'm getting hit every possession but you still moving."

"He had an exceptional game and he willed them to the win tonight."

The 295 combined points were the most since the Denver Nuggets and Seattle SuperSonics totaled 298 in two overtimes on April 6, 2008. The record is Detroit's 186-184 triple-OT win over Denver in 1983.

With All-Star point guard John Wall sidelined due to illness, Beal scored 10 points in the third overtime, including a slicing layup that made it 146-144 with 40 seconds left.

He also had a career-high 15 assists and 11 rebounds, and reached the triple-double plateau by the end of the first overtime. He still had to play two more to help Washington to its second win in eight games.

"I will never try to go out and get a triple-double," Beal said. "It's the hardest thing to do."

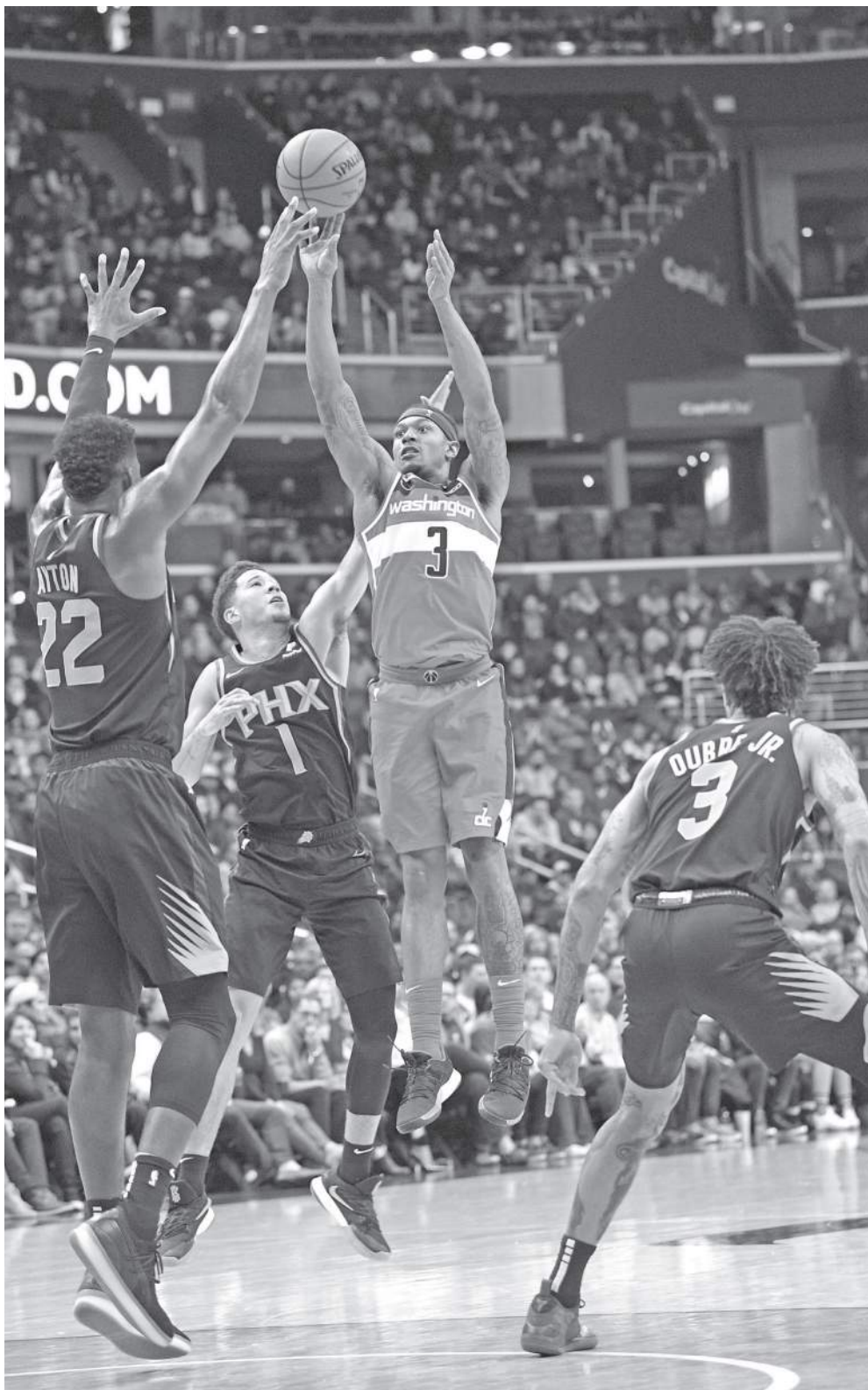
Thomas Bryant added a career-high 31 points, hit all 14 of his shots and made all three of his free throws. At one point, Bryant scored 16 of 18 points for Washington across a stretch of the first and second overtime.

"It's amazing," the second-year forward said. "I had no idea. I was just in the flow of the game. I just let the game come to me, and as soon as I felt like I was in the rhythm of it, I just went out and took it."

Devin Booker had 33 points and 14 assists for the Suns, who ended their four-game winning streak after giving back a seven-point lead late in the fourth quarter.

Deandre Ayton had 26 points and 17 rebounds for his fifth consecutive double-double but fouled out midway through the second overtime.

After going scoreless for nearly a 10-minute stretch in overtime, Beal scored eight straight points for Washington



in the third extra period.

Later, he cut through several defenders for a layup that gave the Wizards the lead for good, 146-144.

"When your best player is not playing, the other guys take on more responsibilities," Jazz coach Igor Kokorov said. "Beal was, he came ready and understanding that his role tonight was going to be different."

Tomas Satoransky and Jeff Green combined to make 3 of 4 free throws, with Booker hitting a leaning shot on the other end. Booker tried to set up T.J. Warren for a tying 3-pointer, but Warren's shot came after the buzzer.

Beal missed a potential winning floater to end the first overtime period, and Booker had his shot from a similar spot rim out to end the second.

## Rockets 108, Spurs 101

In Houston, James Harden had 39 points and 10 assists to lead Houston past San Antonio.

Clint Capela had 21 points and a season-high 23 rebounds, and Eric Gordon had 18 points on 4-of-12 shooting from 3-point range.

DeMar DeRozan led San Antonio with 28 points and eight assists. LaMarcus Aldridge scored 18 points, and Rudy Gay added 13.

The Rockets were playing without point guard Chris Paul, who suffered a Grade-2 left hamstring strain on Thursday night in Miami and is expected to be out at least two-to-four weeks. Houston entered Saturday winless in five games without Paul this season.

## Warriors 120, Mavericks 116

In Oakland, Kevin Durant had 29 points with a key 3-pointer with 15 seconds left, and added 12 rebounds and eight assists, as Golden State held off a fourth-quarter rally.

Stephen Curry contributed 22 points, five rebounds and five assists and Jonas Jerebko provided a nice boost with a

season-high 23 points on 10-for-12 shooting with six rebounds in 21 minutes off the bench. The made field goals also were his most this season, and Jerebko received a rousing ovation when he took a seat with 6:39 to play.

Mavericks rookie sensation Luka Doncic made 5 of 11 shots with three 3-pointers in the first half for 14 of his 19 points.

## 76ers 126, Raptors 101

In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid had 27 points and 11 rebounds, Ben Simmons added 26 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists and Philadelphia routed short-handed Toronto.

JJ Redick added 22 points for the 76ers, who pulled within 2½ games of first-place Toronto in the Atlantic Division.

Pascal Siakam scored 26 points and Kyle Lowry added 20 for the Raptors, who slipped to 25-10. Toronto played without two-time defensive player of the year Kawhi Leonard, as well as Serge Ibaka and Jonas Valanciunas.

Washington Wizards guard Bradley Beal (3) shoots against Phoenix Suns center Deandre Ayton (22), guard Devin Booker (1) and forward Kelly Oubre Jr. (3) during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Dec. 22, 2018, in Washington.

Leonard was held out of the lineup to rest on the second game of a back-to-back after scoring a season-high 37 points in the Raptors' 126-110 home win over Cleveland on Friday night.

## Clippers 132, Nuggets 111

In Los Angeles, Danilo Gallinari and Tobias Harris each scored 21 points, Montrezl Harrell added 20 as Los Angeles dealt Denver its worst loss of the season.

The Nuggets (21-10) had not lost by more than 10 points and had won four straight.

Nikola Jokic led the Nuggets with 19 points in 20 minutes before being ejected. Jamal Murray added 18 points

and Monte Morris 15.

The Clippers outscored the Nuggets in the paint 80-50.

## Heat 94, Bucks 87

In Miami, Josh Richardson scored 16 points, Dwyane Wade had a pair of big baskets in the final minutes and Miami held Giannis Antetokounmpo to a season-low scoring effort.

Wade finished with 13 points for Miami, which extended its season-high winning streak to four games. Hassan Whiteside had 11 points and 13 rebounds, and Kelly Olynyk and James Johnson each scored 11 points for the Heat.

Antetokounmpo was held to a season-low nine points—his previous was 12—on 3 for 12 shooting, though he did have 13 rebounds. Khris Middleton scored 18 points and Eric Bledsoe added 17 for the Bucks, who shot 37 percent—and 9 for 43 from 3-point range. It was the sixth-worst 3-point percentage in NBA history for a team taking at least 40 shots from beyond the arc.

## Column: Anthony Davis situation not going away now or in future

There are 30 teams in the NBA, and each and every one would like New Orleans' Anthony Davis to play for them now and in the future.

That's the nature of being a top-five player in the league.

It doesn't make Pelicans coach Alvin Gentry wrong for voicing his frustration about Los Angeles Laker superstar LeBron James' open wish to see Davis in a Lakers uniform.

James saying he would like to play alongside Davis—Gentry calls it tampering and a violation of league rules—is normal in today's NBA.

As James said following the Lakers' 112-104 victory over the Pelicans on Friday, "I would want to play with a lot of great players, that is just who I am."

This Davis-Lakers-James-Gentry commotion began when James said earlier this week a Lakers trade for Davis "would be amazing."

Gentry countered: "We're not trading him. I can say that to the world. We're not going to trade him, no matter what. That's not an option. It doesn't matter what anybody says or does. We're not trading Anthony Davis."

Then, ESPN's Adrian Wojnarowski wrote a story detailing the frustration of small-market general managers and cited an NBA bylaw, which states, "Any Player who, directly or indirectly, entices, induces, persuades or attempts to entice,

induce or persuade any Player, Coach, Trainer, General Manager, or any other person who is under contract to any other Member of the Association to enter into negotiations for or relating to his services shall, on being charged with such tampering ..."

Do you think Lakers president Magic Johnson and general manager Rob Pelinka need to be enticed either directly or indirectly to go after Davis?

In a statement, the league, said, "Each case is assessed on its own facts. In general, absent evidence of team coordination or other aggravating factors, it is not tampering when a player makes a comment about his interest in playing with another team's player."

The league has made clear it is generally fine with players expressing interest in teaming up with another player. It's been happening for years. The players are friends and have known each other for years. Even if they don't say it publicly, they're saying it privately, and the league can't stop it.

Adding more intrigue to the situation, James' agent, Rich Paul, also represents Davis. It's easy to see why the Pelicans are frustrated and worried. They don't want to lose their star, who is having an MVP-like season, averaging 28.1 points, 12.6 rebounds, 4.7 assists, 2.7 blocks and 1.7 steals.



# Don't put Harper in Dodger Blue just yet

**LOS ANGELES** — No, Bryce Harper was not quite fitted for Dodger Blue on Friday night.

There was no need—not yet—for Harper to dial up Fernando Valenzuela and ask the Dodgers legend and current broadcaster if it's cool to break No. 34 out of semi-retirement.

Oh, the seven-player deal with the Cincinnati Reds—a classic Dodgers deal involving dead money, dead players walking and even some actual, living

baseball assets—absolutely gets L.A. in the Harper fray.

And they are certainly equipped to take a strong run at the erstwhile Washington National, a brand unto himself and, at 26, a power-hitting outfielder still in his prime.

What we still don't know is if this Andrew Friedman-led regime will ever desire a player so much, they'll go to any length for him. It's possible Harper is that guy, but it's equally possible the Dodgers have a tipping point in mind, and would be prepared

to walk away when the money gets too crazy.

With that, we present the only guarantee after the Dodgers beat the holiday buzzer and cleared the decks for a superstar: Harper and Manny Machado just got a whole lot richer.

Suddenly, agent Scott Boras has a big, blue stalking horse, an iconic franchise worth some \$3 billion that's thirsting for a World Series after falling just short in two consecutive years.

And what if the Dodgers, against all reason, didn't do this



Washington Nationals' Bryce Harper runs toward second on his double during the third inning of a baseball game against the Miami Marlins, Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2018, in Washington.

to kick the tires on Harper?

That doesn't really matter, does it? All Boras needed was the appearance the Dodgers are in.

Now, he can truly strike fear

in the heart of Jerry Reinsdorf in Chicago, or John Middleton in Philly, who know there won't be any sneaking in and preemptively snagging the

two greatest players to hit free agency this decade.

Until Friday's deal, that remained something of a possibility.

While there was always the chance of a covert strike by a Dodgers or Cubs or Yankees, it also seemed plausible that the White Sox and Phillies—both sitting on piles of cash and both desperate to goose a pair of shriveling fan bases—would squire away their stars.

Harper to the White Sox, where he'd join Eloy Jimenez for a breathtaking 1-2 outfield punch.

Machado to the Phillies, who could offer him third base through 2030 and enough cash to just about match Harper's haul, if not exceed it.

## CANOE

From Page 32

Garapan and back.

According to Andrew, eight individuals paddled their way through windy conditions and choppy water.

"Going up north was a challenge since the wind was blowing strong and it was a head on wind coming in from almost up north. The return was a downwind with choppy water conditions that only experienced and seasoned V1 paddlers will truly enjoy," Andrew said.

After the races, Andrew, who is also the coach of Saipan Paddling Club, and Napu Outrigger Canoe Club's Jason Tarkong conducted a

V1 clinic. Andrew said they are looking forward to holding more V1 races next year to promote the event here.

Andrew, on behalf of NMNPSF, thanked the business community, CNMI residents, their family, and friends for in-kind and monetary donations that helped the association hold regular races this year. He also acknowledged those who supported NMNPSF in hosting the Micronesia Cup, which had to be canceled due to Super Typhoon Yutu.

"Everything was in place for us to host and teams from Guam and Singapore who were booked and committed were to arrive on Oct. 24—the day Yutu arrived. On Oct.

22, we had to send out cancellation notices to all clubs and teams—there were over 10 teams registered to take part in this year's races," Andrew said.

"These kinds of races that attract regional and international paddlers are costly and takes a lot of work to put on. That said, on behalf of the NMNPSF, I want to extend our sincere appreciation and huge thank you to all the local businesses, residents who make monetary donations and in-kind donations, as well as the many friends and families who put in a lot of hours to help put on one of the best regional outrigger canoe paddling competitions in our lagoons," he added.

## TSUNAMI

From Page 32

closed last Sept. 30 so we lost the pool after that. Then before Super Typhoon Yutu, we practiced at the pool of Pacific Islands Club. However, PIC sustained huge damage from Yutu, so we lost a practice pool, again. After Yutu, I went out and asked others to let us use their pool temporarily. However, their pools also suffered damages," Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura said.

"Then came Hyatt Regency

Saipan—they let us use their pool. We, especially the swimmers, were very happy that Hyatt immediately responded to our request. They allowed us to set lanes and add lights because we still swim after sunset," Kimura said.

The Tsunami Saipan added that without the Hyatt pool, Batallones won't be able to prepare well for the world championships.

"Our team captain, Nelson Batallones, could not drop times (50m and 100m butterfly events) in the world championships if he did not practice

a lot. Without Hyatt Regency Saipan's kindness, Nelson wouldn't have enough time to train for the competition. We keep brushing up four strokes and turn techniques, and swimming faster and straight. We can't improve these techniques without practicing at the pool," the Tsunami Saipan coach added.

"We deeply appreciate Hyatt Regency Saipan's generosity. Thank you to all the lifeguards, cleaning staff, and all managers, especially general manager Nick Nishikawa," Kimura said.



# Holiday Season

## Drunk Driving Prevention Campaign

### November 22 - December 31, 2018

Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving. Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.





**CNMI Department of Public Safety.**

For more information call:

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# Saipan Tribune Sports



KAN  
PACIFIC  
POOL  
CLOSED

32 MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2018

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Canoe nat'l team program eyed



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Paddlers entered in the V1 event wait at the starting line at Kili Beach last Dec. 15 for the season-ending races of Northern Marianas National Paddling Sports Federation.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Napu Outrigger Canoe Club coach Jason Tarkong secures the V1 canoe before beginning a clinic last Dec. 15 at Kili Beach.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A national team program will be on Northern Marianas National Paddling Sports Federation's priority list for the 2019 season, as the group prepares for various regional competitions.

"The federation plans to establish a national team paddling program that will be used as a guide/framework in training athletes who will represent us in regional games such as the Micronesian Games, the Pacific Mini Games, and the Pacific Games, as well as International Vaa Federation



(IVF) races. This program will rely on member clubs to encourage and recommend their member-paddlers who meet certain set of criteria to try their luck in representing our Commonwealth in the Games," said NMNPSF president Justin Andrew. The earliest Pacific Games

will be held next summer in Apia Samoa (July 7 to 20), while the CNMI will be hosting the Pacific Mini Games in 2021, and the 2022 Micronesian Games will take place in the Marshall Islands.

In the past, the federation just held a series of qualifiers to select members of the CNMI Team and on a few occasions,

a NMNPSF-member club represented the Commonwealth in these regional events.

"2019 will be a busy year for our federation as we will need to gather steam and energy and get on with trainings and preparations for the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa scheduled for mid summer. The federation will also have its local annual schedule of events and we will be announcing this schedule immediately at the beginning of 2019," said Andrew, who is joined on the NMNPSF board by vice president Dino Manning, secretary Hazel Tudela, treasurer Shelli Neal, and race director Valerie Hofschneider.

"In addition, the federation eyes some other regional events that will be used as part of the preparation of the NMI national team that will represent us in 2021 Pacific Mini Games. The CNMI is hosting the Pacific Mini Games and it will be important to have a strong outrigger paddling home team to compete against some of the best in the region," he said.

### V1 races cap off season

Meanwhile, the federation wrapped up the 2018 paddling season with a series of V1 (one-man canoe) friendly races last Dec. 15 from Kili Beach in Oleai to the Chamolinian Utt in

## Tsunami Saipan: Thank you Hyatt



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan members pose at the façade of the Hyatt Regency Saipan before heading to the pool to start their training session last week.



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan's Nelson Batallones set personal best times in the 14th FINA World Championships held at the Hangzhou Olympic and International Expo Center in China early this month.

He made the achievement more than two months after the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi shut down, leaving Batallones and hundred other swimmers on island without an appropriate venue for training sessions. Despite the facility closure, Batallones and his teammates at Tsunami Saipan continue to hold practices, thanks to Hyatt Regency Saipan, who welcomed the club with open arms.

"The Kan Pacific pool  
See TSUNAMI on Page 31

See CANOE on Page 31